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Photos courtesy of Boswell Hardwick

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> I'm **flattered** when anyone is curious about my sexuality, because that makes me think that **they assume I'm gettin' some no matter what.**
>
> – Jason Mraz, pg. 34

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Theater professionals from across Michigan will gather together Sept. 22 when The 2014 Wilde Awards are presented at The Berman Center for the Performing Arts in the Detroit suburb of West Bloomfield. Get the full story online at Pridesource.com!

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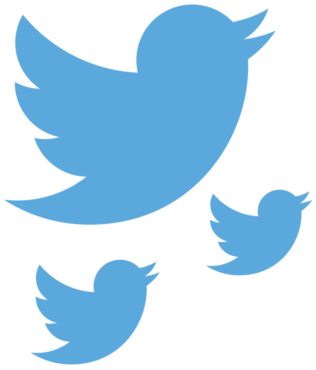

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Lawyer Julian Mortenson, Marsha Caspar and Glenna DeJong. BTL photo: AJ Trager

Caspar v Snyder Plaintiffs Argue For Right To Stay Married

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT - Federal Judge Mark A. Goldsmith, of the Eastern District of Michigan, heard testimony from ACLU of Michigan Cooperating Attorney and University of Michigan Constitutional law professor, Julian Mortenson, representing eight same-sex couples fighting for recognition of their legal marriages from the state.

The lawsuit was filed in April after hundreds of same-sex couples were married during a brief window following the Deboer v Snyder case where Federal Judge Bernard A. Friedman ruled that the State's same-sex marriage ban was unconstitutional. After a stay was issued, county clerk's offices were barred from issuing any more marriage licenses, but more than 300 couples were at that time legally married under Michigan law. Eight couples sued the state directly following.

Marsha Caspar and Glenna DeJong were the first couple married in Michigan on March 22. They spoke outside the courthouse before the hearing.

"We just want to be treated equally," DeJong started. "I truly don't understand people's rabid resistance to treating each other equally and with respect. We waited 27 years to get married, not by choice, but by exclusion – we simply weren't allowed to marry." Frank Colasonti and his husband, Jim Ryder, were also present.

Mortenson argued that the state cannot undo the legal marriages after they have taken place and that "acting properly under Michigan law, the marriages are protected under the constitution."

The issue of irreparable and constitutional harm was brought up many times by the prosecution. Examples of that harm include: paternal rights of the parents, future harm such as medical coverage and gaps in the medical coverage that may affect any household children, absence or loss of a pension, the right to make personal decisions such as the "power of attorney" when discussing hospitalization rights and the ongoing risk of children being orphaned and placed under the care of the state. Currently, Michigan grants only heterosexual marriages full state benefits, protections and recognitions.

Two of the eight couples have children. Under current Michigan law, both parents do not have paternal rights since, unlike heterosexual couples, both parents are prohibited from being listed as legal guardians of the child. If the legal guardian of the child was to die, the other partner would then be a "legal stranger" and not permitted to assume guardianship without applying for adoption.

"This has day-by-day effects on the kids," Mortenson told the judge, that come with emotional confusion, uncertainty and emotional insecurity for the children.

"We aren't seeking damages, Your Honor," Mortenson continued. "We want an order to stop disrespecting these marriages and to validate their rights…The claim is simple. The merits are clear. The harm is profound. The state cannot mandatorily divorce you."

State attorney Joshua Booth argued that the couples' marriages would become invalid if higher courts, such as the 6th Circuit, overturn the decision made by Judge Friedman this past March.

"If DeBoer gets reversed, it will be as if the DeBoer decision and the premise on which plaintiffs' marriages took place never existed," Booth said. He argued that refraining from a decision would allow the higher courts to determine what the law should be.

"The marriage amendment was reanimated by the stay," Booth said, discussing how many other courts are staying their decision while awaiting the Supreme Court of the United States to clarify the matter.

Booth also argued that there wasn't any harm currently being done to the plaintiffs because they were aware the court may issue a stay. He pressed that the Caspar case be consolidated with the Blankenship case filed in June, which requested that the state recognize out of state same-sex marriages. Mortensen argued that the two cases were similar, but different, and that consolidation would not represent each case individually.

In a conference call after the hearings, ACLU Attorney Jay Kaplan stated, "The DeBoer case and the Caspar case are very different. DeBoer was arguing for the right to marry, whereas Caspar is about the right to remain married."

Caspar and DeJong have been awaiting this trial date since they filed in March.

"I think it was great; our attorney did a fantastic job and we are anxious about what is going to happen," DeJong said in reflection.

"I was glad today finally arrived. I was overwhelmed in the courtroom in listening to both sides – especially our side. I just hope this judge does the right thing and makes the right decision for equality," Caspar said.

"He seemed to be very much engaged and understanding of what the different arguments were," Kaplan said in regards to the judge presiding over the case.

If Goldsmith does order full recognition without staying his own decision pending appeals, the state would ask a higher court to put that ruling on hold, said Joy Yearout, spokesperson for the state attorney general's office.

The court is now in recess with no orders on the various motions given by Goldsmith.

GAGG And LGBT: Gearing Up For November

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING - The big Michigan Democratic names on this year's upcoming ballot were decided in Lansing this weekend at the Michigan Democratic Nominating Convention. Like every election, there are many issues that will swing a vote in favor of one nominee or another in November. And this year, many state Democrats have LGBT rights at the front of their running platform, most notably U.S. Rep and State Sen. Mark Schauer running for governor with Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown for lieutenant governor and Kalamazoo attorney Mark Totten for attorney general.

"When I heard April DeBoer's story, my heart broke because she had a near death experience in a car accident and [she] said, 'If my partner dies, I just want the security that the state cannot take away my kid.' That's all she asked," Mark Totten said to the LGBT caucus held during the convention.

Totten asked DeBoer, the plaintiff in the DeBoer v Snyder case, to nominate him for Michigan attorney general and vows to dismiss the 6th Circuit Appeal of Judge Friedman's decision the day he is sworn into office. The incumbent for Totten's race, Michigan's current Attorney General Bill Schutte, put the stop on same-sex marriages in the state and is responsible for the 6th Circuit Appeal.

"Bill Schutte's response was to double down and to wage this crusade that has continued before the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. It is a great example of the stark contrast in values that are at stake in this race. I look forward to being a strong advocate for LGBT rights in this state," Totten said.

Mark LaChey, Saugatuck attorney and Chair of the LGBT caucus, believes there are three races that need to be won for the LGBT community in November: the governor's race, the attorney general's race and for the party to take back the majority in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Joan Brausch has lived in Midland for 40 years and has raised a family within the school system and the community. She believes it to be a fantastic community but can see a disparity amongst those that don't have a strong voice within the system.

"We need a country where discrimination is gone. Where people have equal rights no matter who they are," Brausch said, addressing the caucus.

She is running in the 98th District with a platform that protects education for K-12, promotes better funding opportunities for those that are college bound, hopes to decrease unemployment and also raise the minimum wage.

Her opponent, Gary Glenn, is a homophobe according to LaChey who believes the GOP party has 11 homophobic tea party candidates in mostly safe seats, but thinks it's Brausch's race that has the biggest opportunity to unseat one of the 11.

"The best shot to knock off one of those openly homophobic, anti-gay hate-mongering [candidates] is Gary Glenn who is running in the 98th district," LaChey said. "Yes, it is

See GAGG, page 9

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Kalamazoo attorney Mark Totten, Democratic candidate for Michigan attorney general. BTL photo: AJ Trager

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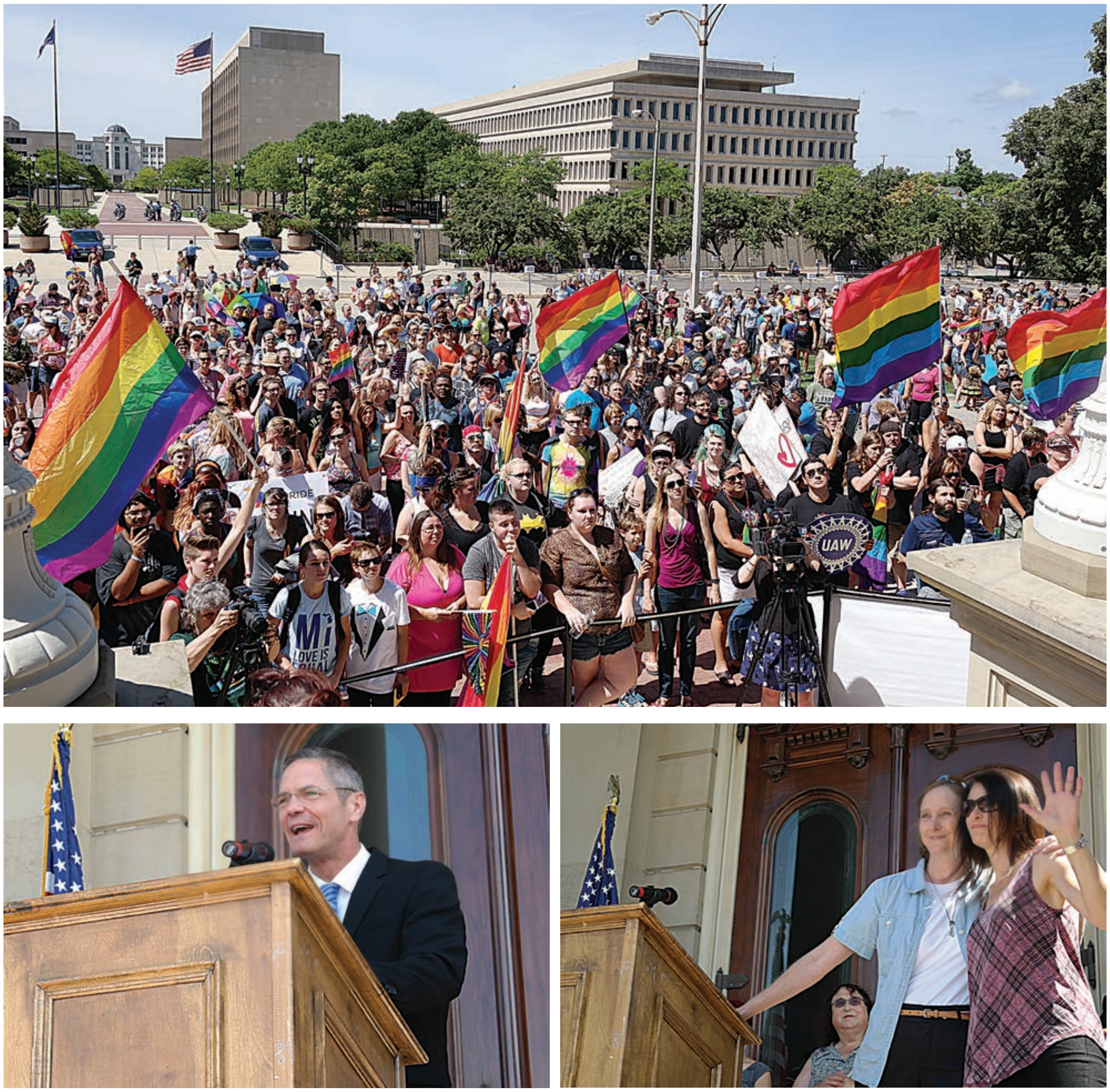

Top: Michigan Pride Rally. Bottom Left: Mark Schauer on the Capitol Steps. Bottom Right: Glenna DeJong and the DeBoer case lawyer, Dana Nessel. BTL photos: AJ Trager

Schauer Leaves His Mark On Michigan Pride

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING - There were hundreds of people who gathered at the Capitol Steps Aug. 23rd for a rally celebrating the 25th Annual Michigan Pride in Lansing.

After marching to the Capitol steps, First Congregational UCC Pastor, Reverend Nicolette Siragusa, led a commitment ceremony. Glenna DeJona then gave the grand speech, speaking for herself and Marsha Caspar, the first same-sex couple married in the state of Michigan.

The temperature climbed on the Capitol steps as candidate for governor Mark Schauer took the stage. A gubernatorial candidate speaking at Michigan Pride hasn't occurred in many years. Schauer was well-received by the crowd who waved flags and shouted "One Love" when he came to the podium.

"My friends, it's really pretty simple. Commitment is commitment. Love is love. Nobody in this great state should face discrimination based on who they love, where they live, what they look like or because of their gender identity," Schauer said, pausing for the crowd to respond.

Schauer showed appreciation for the courage and strength of both lawsuit plaintiff couples, Marsha Caspar and Glenna DeJong (Caspar v Snyder) and Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer (DeBoer v Snyder).

Continued on Next Page

Gay-Owned Espresso & Gelato Shop Finds Niche In Detroit

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Gay-owned business, Melt Espresso & Gelato, opened last year in Midtown, adding to the continuing growth of Detroit as a center for LGBT prosperity and culture.

Aaron Haithcock, originally from Texas, opened the business in October after a long journey of love. “It took three and a half years to open; I had to apply for a loan three different times,” he says. “I had to keep resubmitting for it. It took lots of time… time was definitely an issue.” Negotiating for a spot in the area took over a year alone.

Despite the difficulty in opening the shop, he recommends people “absolutely” look into opening businesses in Detroit. The reception to his business has been phenomenal so far, and Haithcock credits it to the burgeoning culture in the area, both LGBT and straight: “I’d say the Midtown business area has an equivalent number of LGBT folk as Ferndale. The new mayor, the city getting safer… the scale is tipping to Detroit.”

Haithcock had originally planned to bring a large, family candy shop to the area, after working in a candy/ice cream store in Chicago for several years and dreaming of opening his own business. After studying the Detroit area, and working at local coffee shops, he decided to go for something “fancier.”

He notes, “I was able to keep the ‘sweets’ element with candy and other treats, but with smaller portions.” Such sweets include the ever-changing flavors of gelato and baked goods such as the popular “Cream Cheese Butter Cookies.”

Aside from confections, Haithcock can’t recommend his coffee treats enough. “The French Toast coffee drink is my personal favorite,” he raves, adding that there are also new signature drinks constantly being added.

Haithcock has already tried bringing fresh energy to the Cass Corridor with his coffee “happy hours” every weekday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Facebook-centric specials occur frequently. This past winter, free peppermint hot chocolates went to customers who mentioned seeing a status on Melt’s Facebook page. Catering is also available at the store.

Located across from Avalon Bakery, Melt Espresso & Gelato can be found at 4160 Cass Ave., Detroit. The shop is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. every Sunday.

For more information, call 313-833-4223 or e-mail melt.gelato@yahoo.com. Melt’s facebook can be found at www.facebook.com/melttogether.

To look for more LGBT-run businesses in Southeast Michigan, check out BTL’s Yellow Pages at www.pridesource.com/directory.html.

“Now, Rick Snyder says he’s a tough nerd,” Schauer continued. “But let me tell you: there is nothing tough about taking away benefits for committed same-sex couples. There’s nothing tough about denying equal rights to the LGBT community. And there’s nothing tough about defending a discriminatory ban on marriage equality. That’s not tough. That’s wrong.”

> *“Rick Snyder says he’s a tough nerd, but there is nothing tough about taking away benefits for committed same-sex couples. There’s nothing tough about denying equal rights to the LGBT community. And there’s nothing tough about defending a discriminatory ban on marriage equality.”*
>
> – Mark Schauer

Schauer and running mate Lisa Brown have said many times that they will stand for LGBT rights within their administration and for the state at large. He reaffirmed his position at the rally.

“When I am governor, discrimination will have no place in my administration. We will amend the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act, and we will ban LGBT discrimination once and for all. We will do that together. And we will fight, and we will lead Michigan to be a marriage equality state,” Schauer said.

He relinquished the spotlight to Todd Heywood, who spoke about PreP and how important the new HIV preventative drug could be for the gay market. Then Rachel Crandall, president of Transgender Michigan, and Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan, spoke towards the recent violence against transwomen in Detroit.

This was the first time a gubernatorial candidate shared the stage with Transgender Michigan, Crandall told BTL: “It was a very exciting day.”

Festivities moved to Old Town for drag performances with host Delicious, music performances by Kate Peterson and Ronnie Nyles Band, comedian Mimi Gonzalez, RuPaul’s Drag Race contestant Trinity Bonet and many more.

Old Town was packed with cars and people in rainbow, with their bodies painted in multicolor handprints or dressed in tutus. Families gathered, heavily sun-blocked, to watch the show and to attend vendor booths.

“I’m out here because the majority of my friends are bisexual, transgender, homosexual or lesbian, and I don’t really appreciate how the world treats them. And the funny thing about equality is (that) everybody is equal until they’re dead, and that’s not really right. Everybody has had to fight for their rights. But they are showing that everybody can have fun while fighting for their rights,” Lance Cooper, Lansing resident, said.

Cooper was attending the festival with his friends Taylor Caswell, Lexy Burns, Brittany Fata and Gabrielle White who were all first timers to Michigan Pride.

“I’m here to support everybody here. Most of us, I’m pretty sure, are crossing between bi and lesbian, so we just want to support everyone and bring out the love and make sure everyone knows that it’s okay to be who you are, and love who you want to love,” Burns laughed, pulling on the shoulders of White.

LGBT Killer On Loose In Metro Detroit

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT - Detroit police are looking for a murder suspect in Metro Detroit. Three transwomen have been shot; one woman has lost her life. All three were shot in Palmer Park, known for being home to Detroit’s “red light district.” Of the three shootings, the murdered woman was killed on Aug. 15 with a fatal shot to the head. The second victim, 25, was shot early morning on Aug. 15, and the third victim, 20, was injured the morning of Aug. 17.

Police say that the shootings appear to be a hate crimes, according to WXYZ.

“There was a car chase as a result of the Aug. 15 fatal shooting,” Sgt. Michael Woody said. During the chase, the assailant’s car rolled and the driver escaped. As of press time, he has not been caught. Police have since recovered a gun allegedly used in the attack.

“There are a lot of LGB who congregate in that area,” Woody said. “We’re not sure if the shootings were related or just happenstance. We’re looking into it, but we can’t say they were definitely connected.”

While attacks on the LGBT community along Woodward between McNichols and Seven Mile are nothing new, the public rarely gets to hear about it. The police keep tight-lipped about most attacks.

“Transgender women are far too often the victims of the most severe violence,” Director of Victim Services at Equality Michigan Yvonne Siferd said. “Transgender women are twice as likely to experience discrimination, 1.8 times more likely to experience harassment and 1.5 times more likely to experience threats and intimidation compared to overall survivors. We encourage members of the LGBT community to be extra cautious around Palmer Park until those responsible are caught.”

“The recent string of murders and shootings of transgender women in Detroit is appalling,” Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Rea Carey said. “We are outraged to hear of the continued systematic targeting of transgender women across the country. Too many transgender people have been targeted and killed this year alone. Our country can and must do more to prevent crimes motivated by hate and anti-transgender bias.”

Local media, including ABC Channel 7 and The Detroit News, have both reported the story while misgendering all victims. Representatives of Transgender Michigan and Equality Michigan have confirmed that all three victims are transgender.

Police have declined to identify the victims. The shooter is still on the loose; be advised.

If you have any information regarding the suspect or any of the murder victims, please call the Detroit Police Dept. at 313-596-2260. To report anonymously, call Equality Michigan at 313-537-7000.

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UP Rainbow Pride Board Members Sue Holiday, Lee Maki, Megan Foulks, David Shew, Pam Johnson, Jill Malin and Marissa Jayne Wolfe. Photo courtesy of UP Rainbow Pride

Upper Peninsula Celebrates First LGBT Pride Fest

BY AJ TRAGER

MARQUETTE - For the first time in Michigan LGBT history, the UP will be celebrating a pride festival. Discussions about putting together the event started in 2013 when the board of now eight members started meeting. One year later, performances are scheduled, vendors are ready to set up and the Marquette area is ready to celebrate the end of summer on Sept. 6.

"It's a small community. We're here, we're queer and we're in the woods!" UP Rainbow Pride Co-chair Pam Johnson laughed, describing the UP LBGT community.

Gates to Tourist Park open at 11 a.m. with a march from the Marquette Commons to the park, but the main festivities begin at 1 p.m. Attendees will have a chance to bring picnic blankets and pick their desired seat for the Pride performances. The march will be led by Bobby Glenn Brown, a local man who was rejected from his Catholic church after finally completing a commitment ceremony with his partner of 30 years. Brown was told he had to disassociate from his partner and move out of their house in order to continue any previous responsibilities within the Church.

Approximately 20 vendors will be selling their crafts and buttons. The Michigan Democratic Party has confirmed their attendance to the festival as have Planned Parenthood, T's Taste of Chicago, S&M Buttons, Glass Rainbows and NMU Outlook.

Open mic starts at 2 p.m. Performers will be doing various things like comedy and poetry, with highlighted performances by Double Trouble DJs and eight spectacular Drag performers.

Many of the Northern Michigan LGBT couples have children, and the area is focused on keeping families together. Games and activities including rock painting, a beanbag toss, badminton and more will be provided for the little ones.

"Families are all different ways," Johnson said. "We want everyone to feel comfortable."

Johnson says the community is isolated, so it's hard at times to reach out and try to catch up with other Northern Michigan LGBT. Even with the distance in between, UP Rainbow Pride has heard from groups from Cadillac, Minneapolis and parts of Wisconsin that want to attend the festival.

"We didn't have quite enough funds to pull off a parade in our first year, but we DO have all of Tourist Park in Marquette reserved on Sept. 6th for a day of games, music, a drag show and LGBTQIA-friendly fun in the park," founder and current treasurer of UP Rainbow Pride, Marissa Jayne Wolfe, said. "Additionally, some of the members of our group are scheduled to speak that week at the Marquette city meeting to discuss the proposed LGBT non-discrimination ordinance, the library has declared September Pride Month and we've gotten a lot of positive reception."

The Upper Peninsula has an estimated 311,000 inhabitants, which equates to roughly three percent of the state's population. Marquette is the largest city, with roughly 25 thousand people, and is home to Northern Michigan University.

Northern Michigan doesn't have any gay bars and hosts a very small number of gay-events, Pam Johnson, co-chair of UP Rainbow Pride, said, "The community is so small. Everybody knows everybody, but nobody talks to anybody. There is a huge disconnect. We have various groups at Northern, but when Northern isn't in session, neither are the groups."

According to Johnson, the general demeanor is very open unless you get "the backwoods Yooper" – the redneck Yooper. The community has accepted Johnson since she moved back in 2011, and she says it comes down to the fact that if you treat people with respect, then they'll treat you the same.

"Nobody harasses me. I'm from the generation where I got fired for being a dyke, where I got into fights coming out of bars. You had to defend yourself, because someone is going to kick your butt because you're gay," Johnson said. "So far it's becoming more accepted. We are getting more accepted. Through education and talking, I believe that we are becoming more accepted in the community."

The group's Facebook page lists 300 people looking to attend the event, but Johnson is hoping that upwards of 700 will be in attendance. The group chose to wait until September to hold their Pride event, instead of celebrating in June, so that the Northern college students could attend and openly share their love with the community.

UP Rainbow Pride will be held in Tourist Park located at 2145 Sugarloaf Ave., Marquette. The festival is free to attend. There is lodging both for those who want to camp or for those who prefer the luxury of a hotel.

Call 906-228-0465 to schedule your evening reservation or for more information on UP Rainbow Pride. Visit their event website at www.uprainbowpride.com.

Affirmations Resumes Search For New Executive Director

Metro Detroit's community center for LGBT people and allies, Affirmations, will resume its search for a new director. In January, the center created a search committee which partnered with an outside search firm in a blind process of selection. All potential candidates were directed to the out of state firm, resumes were filtered through a vetting and interview process and candidates were ranked based on a list of pre-determined criteria. The highest-ranking potentials were given further consideration through additional interviews with the committee, board and staff. From this pool of individuals, no candidate was deemed suitable for the position.

As a result, Affirmations has moved into the next phase of its search; a consulting firm and an advisory council compromised of a diverse group of individuals, including the original search committee, will use an open process to select the future director. This process ensures each applicant has equal opportunity for consideration.

"Finding the right person to serve as Executive Director is the most important job of the Board and we take that responsibility seriously. We are confident that this process will yield an outstanding executive director who can build on Affirmations' success and bring us to the next level. In the meantime, we have an excellent team minding the ship and we feel like we should take the appropriate time to find the right candidate," said Affirmations' Board President, Frank Aiello.

Open since 1989, Affirmations provides a welcoming space where people of all sexual orientations, gender identities & expressions and cultures can find support and unconditional acceptance, and where they can learn, grow, socialize and have fun. The center is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

For a complete description of the position of executive director and information on how to apply, visit the Affirmations website at www.GoAffirmations.org, contact Frank Aiello at 248-219-9247 or email employment@GoAffirmations.org.

► GAGG

Continued from p. 5

an anti-gay Gary Glenn campaign, but it is a pro-Joan Brausch campaign. Joan ran two years ago for the state house seat. And she has run again."

The LGBT caucus is raising money for a campaign that will be launched shortly called GAGG, or "Gays Against Gary Glenn," where donations will be given to Brausch's campaign to beat out Glenn. Glenn helped author the Michigan marriage protection amendment outlawing same-sex marriage and has in the past used LGBT affiliation as means of criticism against other political figures.

"Every cycle we say that this is the most important election of our lifetime. I think every cycle that's probably true. After seeing and waging the battles that we have waged, we don't need rhetoric; we're going to run on the facts," Michigan State Senator Gretchen Whitmer said.

Whitmer has spent 14 years in the minority and gets excited when there is a civil war on the other side of the aisle in the Republican Party. She believes one is being waged now.

"The fundamental question they are going to try and figure out today is are they going to have the establishment republican party who is anti-woman, anti-LGBT, anti-worker, tax raising on pensions and school cutting Republicans or are they going to offer something worse than that. It's hard to imagine," Whitmer said.

GODFREY
Dillard
for MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE

Chair of the LGBT Caucus Mark LaChey and Candidate for MI House Rep 98th District Joan Brausch. BTL photo: AJ Trager

Excitement was high during the LGBT caucus that ran over by nearly 45 minutes with various candidates stepping in to show their support for LGBT rights and inclusions. Some notable names that continue to contribute their support include Councilman Jeremy Moss running for State Rep. in the 35th District, strategist Jon Hoadley running for State Rep. in the 60th District, current Mayor of Southfield Brenda Lawrence running for Congress in Michigan's 14th District, Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown running for Michigan lieutenant governor, Congressman Gary Peters running for U.S. Senate and Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Judge Bill Murphy running for Michigan Supreme Court.

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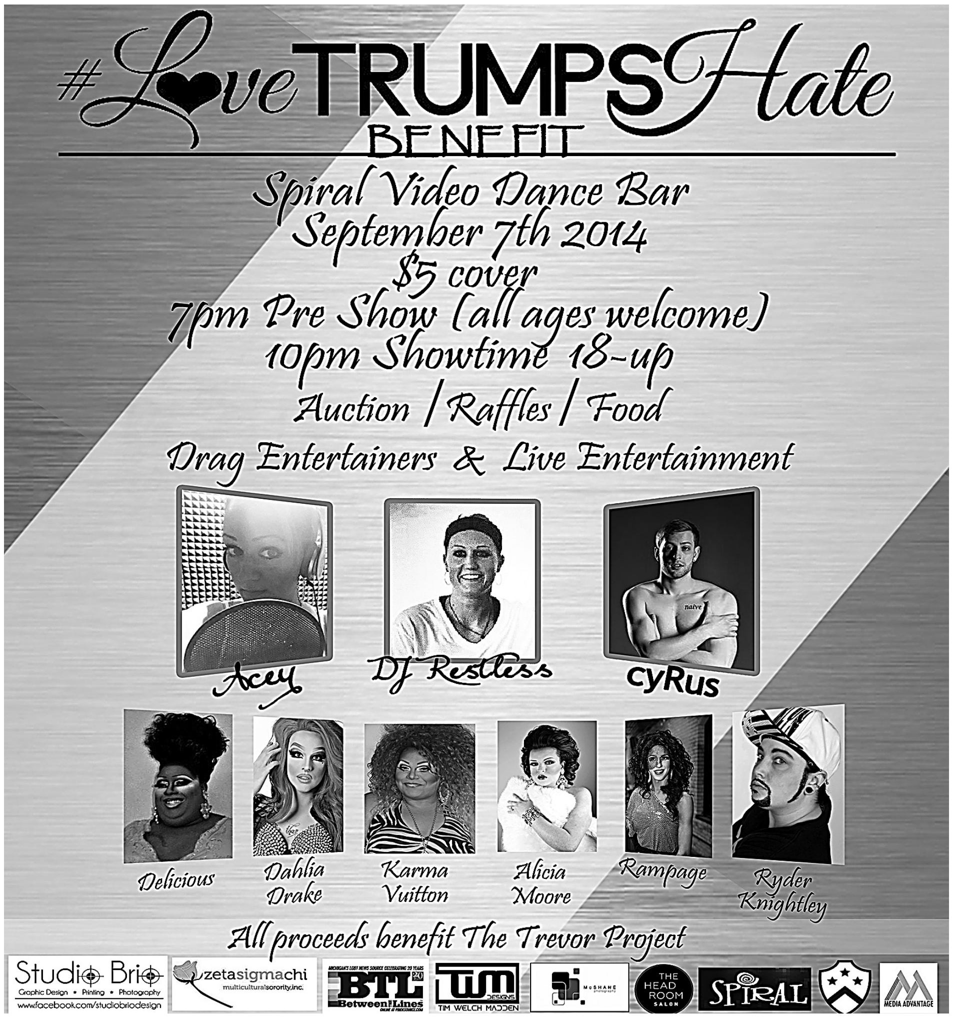
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What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John's wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

I started my personal revolution

Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in 1 pill, once a day.

Ask if it's right for you.

STRIBILD®

elvitegravir 150mg/ cobicistat 150mg/ emtricitabine 200mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Patient Information

STRIBILD® (STRY-bild)
(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
   - feel very weak or tired
   - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
   - have trouble breathing
   - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
   - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
   - feel dizzy or lightheaded
   - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
2. **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
   - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
   - dark "tea-colored" urine
   - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
   - loss of appetite for several days or longer
   - nausea
   - stomach pain

   You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.
3. **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
   - Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone
   - Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
   - If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozide (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John's wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Atripla®, Combivir®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®, Truvada®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See "What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?"**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
    - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
    - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
    - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
    - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
    - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
    - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
    - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
    - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
    - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
    - bepridil hydrochloride (Vascor®, Bepadin®)
    - bosentan (Tracleer®)
    - buspirone
    - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®)
    - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
    - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
    - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
    - colchicine (Colcrys®)
    - medicines that contain dexamethasone
    - diazepam (Valium®)
    - digoxin (Lanoxin®)
    - disopyramide (Norpace®)
    - estazolam
    - ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
    - flecainide (Tambocor®)
    - flurazepam
    - fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus®, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
    - itraconazole (Sporanox®)
    - ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
    - lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
    - mexiletine
    - oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
    - perphenazine
    - phenobarbital (Luminal®)
    - phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
    - propafenone (Rythmol®)
    - quinidine (Neudexta®)
    - rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
    - rifapentine (Priftin®)
    - risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
    - salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
    - sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
    - tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
    - telithromycin (Ketek®)
    - thioridazine
    - voriconazole (Vfend®)
    - warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
    - zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

Issued: October 2013

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No Onan! Oh, No!

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Years ago, there was a physique magazine, Tomorrow's Man, that for a 50 cents newsstand purchase could be discreetly hidden in a hip pocket for private enjoyment. (Considered pornographic, it was a federal offense to send copies through the mail.)

There was no full frontal nudity, and well-oiled models wore posing pouches – the varying capacities of which left to viewer's imagination. It wasn't a problem. With Clark Kent gaydar comes Superman X-ray vision.

In spite of erotic tameness by today's standards, Tomorrow's Man did the trick as a pictorial adjunct to self pleasuring in the bedroom, on pocket-pool, public transportation, in back row church pews and in the occasional unattended telephone booth for Ma Bell's "it's your nickel" sex sessions.

Little wonder then that, out of nostalgia, I zeroed in on a glossy magazine titled Today's Man among hundreds of magazines at a second-hand multi-media record shop. For old time's sake, I took a gander, expecting to find pecs, 'ceps, boners, T-shirted demigods. I was mistaken.

There was no nudity, period. What there was were conservatively dressed guys in three-button suits, dotty bow ties, lapel gold crosses, baggy pants, all smiling as though each had just won a rub off lottery for Jesus.

Said publication was a power-of-positive-thinking glossy for Born Againers.

My curiosity however was aroused by its featured op-ed piece on onanism – masturbation. It was concocted by a thirty-something Jack of(f) All Trades – grinning like the cat who had swallowed the proverbial canary, and the canary seed as well – who'd gone without diddling his didjeroo for 15 years, or 2,340 times, whichever came first. Or, so he claimed.

Whether this entitles our enterprising handyman entry into the Guinness Book of Records or a succinct passing mention in the New York Times Sunday sports section is not for me to say, especially given my own non-existent celibacy track record. (52 times last month,)

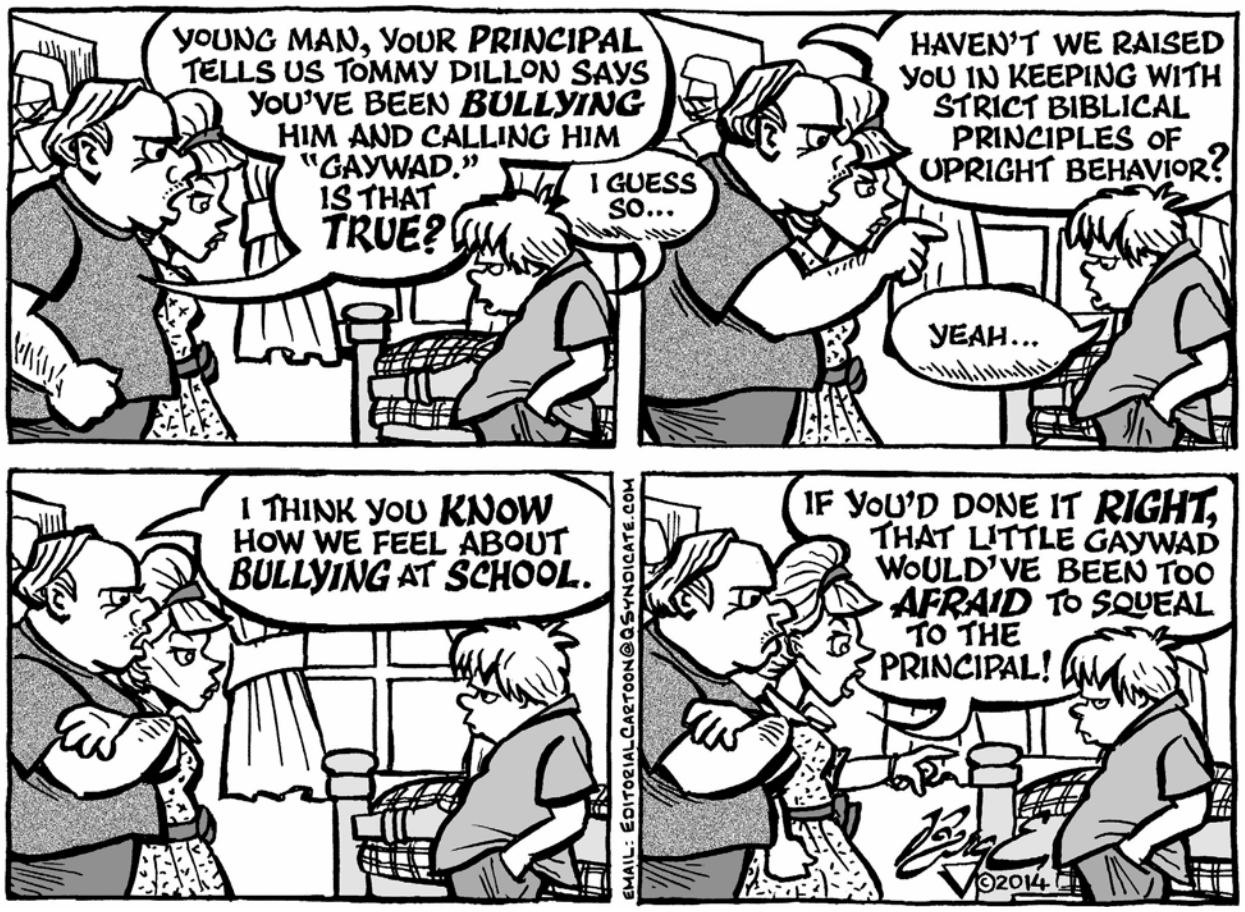
Apparently 80 men showed up for his first workshop. Presumably they saw, they conquered – whether they actually came is debatable – and probably left a love offering at the door. (Women, for reasons of the usual male social shortcomings, were excluded.)

What prompted our ex-JO to keep his holier-than-thou trousers buttoned was the guilt that he had wrestled with – not unlike Jacob and the Old Testament angel – after doing the devilish deed "three times a week behind behind his wife's back" (figuratively speaking).

To those of us who find a JO session both salubrious and a good way to get the old heart pumping without benefit of excessive caffeine intake or token exercise, this sex phobia is just a tad pathological. (Sex is, for these jerks, a convenient way to make people feel guilty and in need of being saved.)

Shelving Today's Man, I imagined our intrepid halo polisher standing at the Pearly Gates. Says St. Peter, "I've got good news and bad news, my son. The good news is there's an Olympic gold medal for cold showers. The bad: we've assigned you to an eternity of hands on workshops on Cloud 9." It sure beats strumming the harp.

(By the way: just kidding about the 52. It was 38. But who's counting?)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Where We Cross

Transmissions

OPINION BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

A few months back, I found myself speaking at a Transgender Day of Remembrance event in Northern California. As the event was breaking up and folks started to head for their cars, a member of the local Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence came up to me. He - as he was male identified - was nearly my height, with a mustache and goatee, wearing the traditional makeup, habit and wimple one might expect from a sister.

We had a lovely discussion, but one thing stuck with me and has been gestating deep in my brain now for nearly a year. We discussed awareness of transgender people within the larger LGBT community, specifically amongst gay males – and he discussed his own ignorance of transgender people. Not that they exist, mind, but more a "101" or who we are, why we are and how our issues fit into the LGBT community as a whole.

Over the last year, too, we've seen some bitter, painful discussions about drag, about "trans-exclusive radical feminists," and about the word "tranny." These same discussions continue and frankly show little chance of slowing down.

I think a lot of this is born out of some of that same ignorance, though I also know a lot of it veers into deep-seated prejudices and hatred. Frankly, a lot of folks won't listen to any discussion on transgender people - let alone leave a conversation with some food for thought. This column won't change their minds in the slightest.

Yet I know there are some out there who may indeed wish to understand transgender people a little better and may want to grasp just how transgender people fit into the larger community. They may even be willing to listen to a couple of the ways we differ. For those who wish to learn, I dedicate this particular column.

Transgender people – by and large – do not entirely feel comfortable in the gender they were assigned at birth and may seek to transcend that gender in a number of ways. Some may opt to present in a way more closely associated with a gender other than that birth gender, some may opt to carve their own gender identity outside of the expected binary and others still might choose to live their life without a "typical" gender identity. Any of these people might identify as transgender – which serves as an umbrella term – while others may opt for other terms they feel better fits their gender identity or expression. For some, that term might change over time, as their feelings grow.

A number of transgender people might simply adopt the clothing of another gender. Some might even adopt a name that is "traditionally" of a gender different from that assigned at their birth. Some may take hormones

See Transmissions, page 16

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Creep of the Week

Pam Bondi

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Well, it's happened. A federal judge has ruled that Florida's anti-gay marriage ban is unconstitutional.

Pam Bondi

In his opinion, Judge Robert L. Hinkle compared the ban on interracial marriage to the ban on same-sex marriage, writing that today the arguments against interracial marriage "seem an obvious pretext for racism."

"When observers look back 50 years from now, the arguments supporting Florida's ban on same-sex marriage," he wrote, "will again seem an obvious pretext for discrimination."

Which means that Miami will soon be gay marriage capital of the world and Mickey and Donald and Minnie and Daisy can finally run off together! Because surely the people of Florida see that the tide is turning away from bigotry. And surely Florida's elected officials wouldn't waste their time and resources defending what is clearly a discriminatory law.

Ha ha ha. Just kidding. We are talking about Florida, after all.

And that's why Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi is going to fight for her right to say no to gay wedding parties.

Despite Judge Hinkle's strong language against the ban, he did issue a stay of the ruling, which means that gay and lesbian couples can't get married in Florida. Yet.

Bondi would like to keep it that way, and it seems like her strategy is to keep Florida's gay and lesbian couples in limbo until the Supreme Court finally rules on the issue.

"When I was sworn in as attorney general, the 37th attorney general of the state of Florida, I took an oath. I took an oath to defend the Constitution of the state of Florida," Bondi said according to Orlando Sun-Sentinel. "Six years ago by over 62 percent of the vote, the voters of this state put that into our Constitution."

"That," of course, would be the anti-gay marriage ban.

"There are good people on both sides," she continued. "We want finality. That's what we need. The U.S. Supreme Court's going to hear this. They are going to make this determination."

And she's right. The issue will eventually make its way to the Supreme Court. But when she acts as if her hands are tied, don't believe it. Attorney generals across the country are declining to defend these hateful and hurtful laws. But Bondi isn't one of them.

"This is me doing my job as attorney general," she added. "And I will continue to do that, and if anybody wants me to moderate my message or stand for less, I have a message for them: I am just getting started."

It's not entirely clear to me what she means by "moderate my message" or "stand for less." But it seems like she's saying she isn't going to kowtow to any marriage-destroying homos no matter how unpopular her position.

Keep in mind, Bondi has been divorced twice. Granted, that should be nobody's business, except when she claims that she's a defender of marriage, that fact becomes relevant.

Let me point out that Bondi, a Republican, is running for reelection in November against either George Sheldon or Perry Thurston (the primary is Aug. 26, so by the time this goes to press, we will know which one). Both are Democrats, and both have said they would not fight to uphold Florida's anti-gay marriage law.

So if you live in Florida, a vote against Bondi is a vote in favor of equality. And if you don't live in Florida, see if you can't get your Maw Maw or Nana or Pops or Gramps to vote against her because Bondi also hates old people. After all, she's argued that marriage should only be between people who can "naturally" procreate. Which is as much an argument against same-sex marriage as it is against octogenarian marriage if you think about it.

SCOTUS Blocks Virginia Same-Sex Marriages

BY BTL STAFF

VIRGINIA - The United States Supreme Court agreed to stay the decision made by a federal appeals court in Virginia last month, blocking same-sex marriages from taking place this week.

The court issued a one-page order mandating a stay until the filing and deposition of a petition for a writ of certiorari, that if declined, will terminate the stay automatically. However, if the court does agree to hear the case, the stay will continue until judgment is issued.

The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals declined to stay or freeze the decision made on July 28th. Had the stay not been issued, Virginia clerk's offices would have started distributing marriage licenses on Aug. 21.

Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry, says that this decision has a big impact on marriage equality cases nationwide.

"This Supreme Court's stay of yet another freedom to marry ruling underscores the urgency of the Court's granting a full review and bringing the country to national resolution by next year," Wolfson said. "Americans across the country are being deprived of the freedom to marry and respect for their lawful marriages, as well as the tangible protections and precious dignity and happiness that marriage brings. It is time for the Supreme Court to affirm what more than thirty courts have held in the past year: marriage discrimination violates the Constitution, harms families and is unworthy of America."

SCOTUS issued the stay after Prince William County Circuit Court Clerk Michele McQuigg requested the stay from the justices. McQuigg is defending the state's ban on same-sex marriage against plaintiffs Timothy Bostic and Joanne Harris.

The SCOTUS decision to stay the same-sex marriages in Virginia is consistent with other stays the high court has issued.

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 14

to masculinize or feminize their appearance. Some may opt for various forms of surgery to enlarge or reduce bust lines, to change their facial appearance or to alter their genitals to match their gender identity. Not all feel such a need.

For most, changes to their gender identity are hard won. Many lose their families and friends over this. For some, marriages are dissolved. We risk our jobs, our livelihoods and even the most basics of necessities over our gender identity.

Some who are transgender may identify as lesbians, or gay men, or bisexuals or even straight. Who we're attracted to does not necessarily have a lot to do with our gender identity. That said, we can be affected by homo- and biphobia, even if we happen to be straight-identified. This is one of those places where we all intersect.

I identify as bisexual. When I am with my spouse, we might be read as two lesbians. Or some who opt to ignore my transition might read me as a gay male. My spouse might also be read as a male from time to time as well. Any of these could lead to homophobia being directed at either of us.

Indeed, when I am seen as transgender, it is far more likely that I will be called an anti-gay epithet than that I will be catcalled with some trans specific term.

We can (all) be affected by homo- and biphobia, even if we happen to be straight-identified. This is one of those places where we all intersect.

The same holds true for many of my friends who are not transgender identified, but may be gay or lesbian. While they too might be called some anti-gay term, the reason for such may not be so much because they are with a same-sex partner, but because their gender identity is not seen as being rigidly male or female.

Look at the stereotypes that gay and lesbian people have faced over the decades. Gay males as limp-wristed hairdressers who speak with lisps and wear flamboyant, feminine attire, or "mannish" lesbians who sport crew cuts and wear denim while riding their motorcycles. These have very little to do with who one opts to sleep with, but have everything to do with expected gender norms.

This is one of the big places we cross over: we all have a stake in the fight for gender rights, and we all seek to gain.

As I mentioned before, there are places where we are divided. While many transgender people come up via the drag community, there are also huge divisions right now between some who perform in drag and others who are trans identified. There are some in the lesbian community who have decided that breaking down gender norms for themselves means also reinforcing them for transgender people.

Make no mistake, though: now is not the time to let ignorance reign, not while so many others would seek to keep us all down. We can, and we should, stand in kinship.

Gwen Smith identifies as a blue spruce. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com.

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Photographer Boswell Hardwick (center) surrounded by his muses. Photos courtesy of Boswell Hardwick

Detroit Through A New Lens

Out DIFFA Photographer Sees The Big Picture

BY CHRISTOPHER J. TREACY

Celebrated fashion photographer Boswell Hardwick has always been a few steps ahead of the game. His understanding of aesthetics, the fashion press and his experience in multiple creative mediums has given him the necessary edge to become successful in a notoriously difficult and fickle industry.

And he's one of Detroit's own. In the early 1980s, he began shooting images of urban decay – "ruin porn" – throughout the city, well before the hipsters who are celebrating it now were even born. At the time, he was using the photos as references for paintings. Now, in September, he'll score his fourth cover photo for StyleLine.

"It's always been a fascination," he says of the city's much-ballyhooed abandoned buildings. "But it's almost like a joke here now. People just roll their eyes, because the focus in Detroit is on a much bigger picture. Still, it's important to look back in order to see forward."

Indeed, Hardwick's ability to see the big picture is a large part of what propels him forward in his career, but his love of Detroit continues regardless of having achieved some success. His participation in the annual DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) fundraiser – this year, from Sept.

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Video Games, Sci-fi & Adventure Pops
2014
2015

Beethoven, Bridges and Blue Jeans
Sat., Oct. 4, 2014 • 7:30 pm
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton

Twilight of a Dark Knight
Sat., Oct. 25, 2014 • 7:30 pm
Steppingstone School, Farmington Hills

American POPSsical
Sat., Nov. 8, 2014 • 7:30 pm
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton

Holiday Pops with The Phil
Thur., Dec. 11, 2014 • 6:00 & 8:00 pm
The Penn Theatre, Plymouth

Miniature Masterpieces
Sun., Jan. 11, 2015 • 2:00 pm
The Inn at St. John's Chapel, Plymouth

From Motown to Mamma Mia
Sat., Feb. 14, 2015 • 7:30 pm
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton

Pipe Dreams
Sun., Mar. 1, 2015 • 2:00 pm
First United Methodist Church, Plymouth

Springtime Swan Song
Sat., Apr. 11, 2015 • 7:30 pm
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton

Sci-Phonic
Sat., May 16, 2015 • 7:30 pm
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I HAVE PEOPLE IN
DETROIT

Designer Gives A Shirt About Detroit

Artist On Bringing Queer Community Together

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

There is an art to delivering Christopher Gorski's signature phrase, "Bitch, please. I'm from Detroit." You've got to wait for the perfect moment, he explains.

"I would travel to different places around the country, including L.A., New York, Miami... you know, big cities. And I would always want to go to the gay bars when I had some free time," says Gorski, 44, a former advertising executive for 15 years. "So I would say, 'Hey, how do I get to this location?' And of course they put the gay bars in the worst (neighborhoods) every time. So they would always be like, 'Oh my god, be careful if you go there.' And I would be like, 'Bitch, please. I'm from Detroit."

Gorski has since turned the phrase into T-shirt gold with his Motor City-centric clothing line DetroitGT, which he sells out of a car at Pride events.

"I've loved cars all my life," he says. "As a kid, my dad and I would always go to used parking lots and look for Corvettes. My T-shirts are about Detroit, so you might as well sell T-shirts out of old cars."

Full of witty remarks, such as "I Have People in Detroit" and "Detroit: One City Under the Hood," his brand is steadily tailoring a following that resonates with the growing spirit of resilience among metro Detroiters. "We are from Detroit; we can handle ourselves," says Gorski, who grew up in Dearborn Heights. For him, it's all about taking Emily Gail's famous "say nice things about Detroit" saying a step further.

"We always do things that are positive. We never show anything with guns or about violence. We never mention crime or anything. It's always positive, similar to what Emily kept going."

Gorski, who lives in Ferndale with his partner, says a natural next step in his DetroitGT line was to create T-shirts that would resonate with the LGBT community. He then developed the "Gay for Detroit" line. That inspiration led him to expand his empire to underwear.

"I started with a little heart on the boxer briefs," Gorski says, before realizing boxer briefs don't do so much for the gays. "All my gay friends would always ask if I had briefs. (They would say), 'I don't wear boxer briefs. I want sexy underwear.' So I started looking into it."

DetroitGT's underwear selection includes modified thongs, jockstraps and briefs that are "right-sized" to fit Midwestern men, says Gorski.

"I realized they were going to be way too small for Midwesterners. They were, like, for California people or people who work out a lot, so I had to expand the jockstrap a bit."

But what really makes people feel sexy in his underwear, Gorski explains, is the sense of city pride.

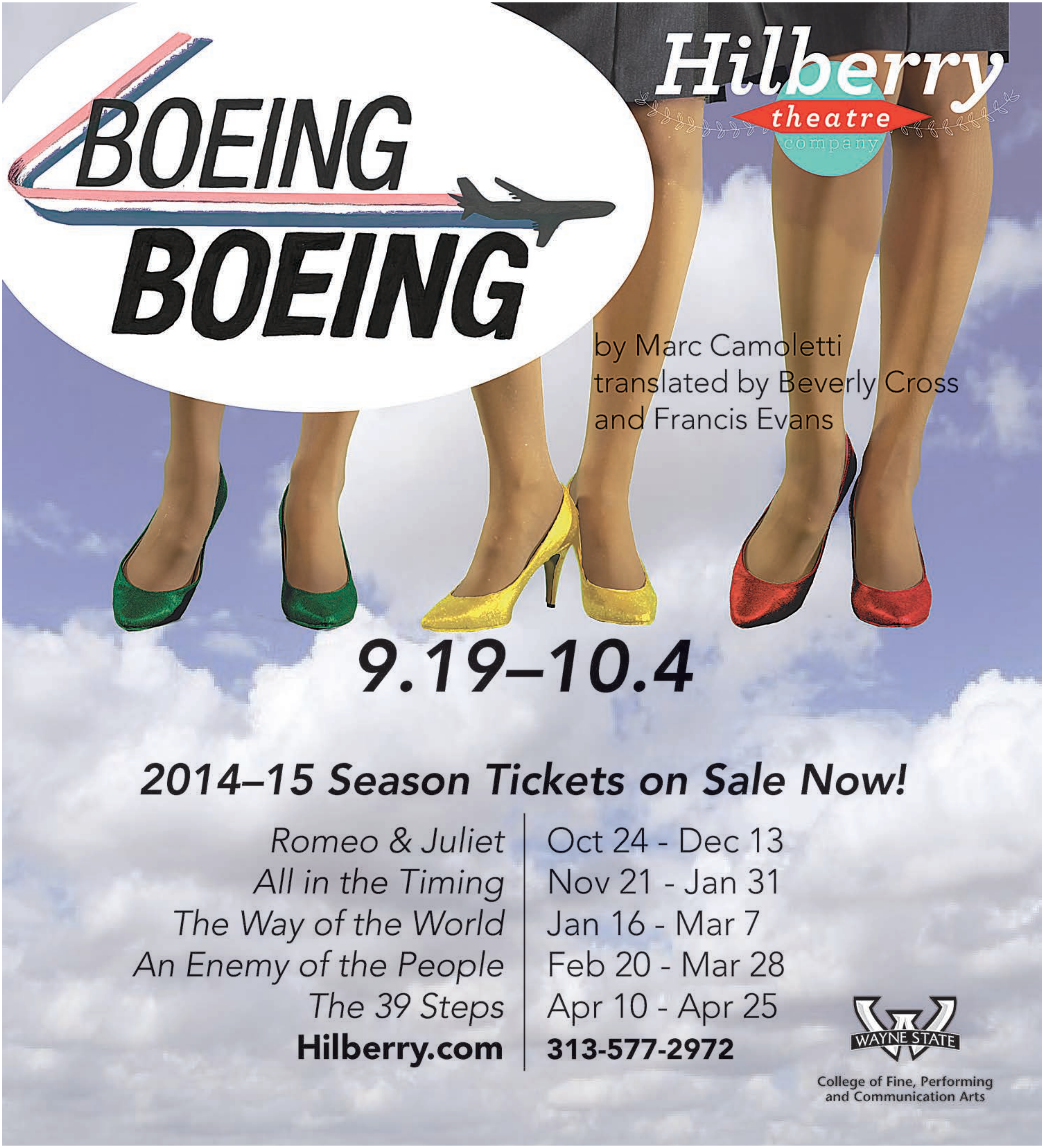
"I think the biggest thing is the novelty of Detroit. There are a lot of underwear companies, but none of them specifically show the pride for the city," he says. "People love Detroit, so why not put it on underwear? Now people want to wear sexy underwear. And they want to feel sexy, and they want to say, "I am from Detroit." I've been getting tons of positive feedback from people."

The "GT" in DetroitGT is short for "graphic technologies," but Gorski says the name is vague enough to can be used in other situations as well: "I let GT stand for whatever is happening in the moment."

DetroitGT was founded in 2003 when Gorski began selling T-shirts out of an old Chevy. Today, his "Thread Sled" mobiles can be found at local festivals and will be expanding to Briarwood and Grand Rapids with hopes of giving each Michigan city an LGBT finish.

"For Christmas, I am going use the Ypsilanti Water Tower," he says, smiling. "You know, (it) looks like a brick dick.

Sure, that's one way to sell shirts (and underwear), but Gorski's tongue-in-cheek designs aren't just about being witty – first and foremost, they're about community.



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► **Cinema Detroit**
Continued from p. 20

Cinema Detroit is togetherness

Paula and Tim met when they worked together at their college paper. Tim was the entertainment editor and Paula reviewed movies. They've been watching them together ever since. Paula estimates the pair has watched thousands of films together, in many varied settings, an experience that has helped shape their vision for Cinema Detroit.

"Owning a movie theater has been my dream since I was a teenager," Paula says. "I've loved movies since I was very young and so has Tim."

Paula put that dream on the backburner until 2012, when she stumbled upon the Cable Car Cinema in Providence, R.I. This converted cable car garage is now a thriving indie movie theater. "This got me thinking about all the available industrial spaces in Detroit," Paula says. "We figured there had to be some space we could convert into a cinema."

At first, the pair tested the market, embarking on a pop-up film series in the West Village at Christmastime in 2012. They started to gather a following, but soon grew tired of lugging around all the heavy equipment involved with the screenings. Paula doesn't call it fate, but through a series of well-placed coincidences, the husband-wife team wound up leasing their current space from the same landlord they were renting housing from. He had recently ended his own movie theater endeavor.

These days, Paula and Tim handle every aspect of Cinema Detroit as a team. Paula is the CEO; Tim is the director of operations. Paula is the programmer, booker and projectionist, and she even makes her own deals with studios and distributors. Tim handles the front of the house: accounts receivable and payable, inventory and concessions.

When you visit the theater, Tim will sell you a ticket to a movie Paula will project, a movie Paula loves or Tim loves to loathe, or maybe a little of both. Either way, enjoy it the Cinema Detroit way, with a friend and a Faygo.

Tab Hunter and Divine in John Waters' "Polyester."

Coming Soon To Cinema Detroit

Be sure to check out the Cinema Detroit website for show times and additions to the always eclectic mix. In the meantime, here's what you can expect:

Sept. 5
Don't miss the theater's special showing of John Waters' "Polyester," complete with Odorama cards. These interactive cards are exactly like the ones circulated when the 1981 cult classic was originally shown. Audiences are encouraged to scratch the card when the corresponding number flashes onscreen. Find out why Francine (played by iconic drag queen Divine) wanted so badly to leave it all behind and take off with Todd Tomorrow in his white Corvette.

Later this fall, watch for "Eternity: The Movie," set to open in November. Cited as "the bro-mantic comedy of the year," Paula says this film is "a loving homage to the '80s, in particular its music and the sexual-gender ambiguity of many '80s pop stars." The film focuses on the rise of a Wham!-esque duo, Eternity. The New Wave soundtrack will appeal to any child or wannabe child of the '80s and anyone who has ever fallen in pseudo love with George Michael and/or Andrew Ridgeley.

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HALLOWEEN COSPLAY
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RATED M FOR MATURE

Check out our website for a full list of events.

The Art of Video Games is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum with generous support from the Entertainment Software Association Foundation; Sheila Duignan and Mike Wilkins; Shelby and Frederick Gans; Mark Lamia; Ray Muzyka and Greg Zeschuk; Rose Family Foundation; Betty and Lloyd Schermer; and Neil Young. The C.F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum's traveling exhibition program, *Treasures to Go*.

image
Super Nintendo Entertainment System
Super Mario World, (detail), 1991
Executive Producer Hiroshi Yamauchi
Produced by Shigeru Miyamoto
Directed by Takashi Tezuka
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Fall Culture Calendar

Art, Music & More Blows Through Michigan

Compiled By Shelby Clark Petkus

Fall is often considered Michigan's best season: beautiful weather, changing leaves and a host of different events. Here are a few select events, be they indoor or outdoor, in southeast Michigan this autumn:

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5

John Water's 'Polyester' in Odorama
Presenting Organization: Cinema Detroit
Cinema Detroit, 3420 Cass Ave., Detroit
313-281-8301 and www.cinemadetroit.com
Tickets: $10

Sept. 6

A Musical Tribute to Bette Midler & Wayne Newton
Presenting Organization: Star Tributes from Las Vegas
The Village Theatre, 50400 Cherry Hill , Canton
734-394-5300
Tickets: $29
7 p.m.

DINING BY DESIGN
DIFFA
DETROIT

Sept. 7

A Musical Tribute to Bette Midler & Wayne Newton
Presenting Organization: Star Tributes from Las Vegas
Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit
248-473-7777

See Culture Calendar, page 29

Arts, Beats, Eats… & The Village People?!

BY BTL STAFF

Labor Day Weekend's premier event, Ford's Arts, Beats & Eats, presented by FirstMerit Bank, celebrates its 17th year in downtown Royal Oak this weekend. The festival will entertain thousands of visitors from across the region with its music line-up, stellar arts programming, mouthwatering selection of food and a number of new attractions.

The art element of the festival comes in the Juried Fine Art Show, one of the nation's most renowned. Top artists from across the continent will compete for cash awards totaling $7,500, showcasing original art in drawing, digital formats, painting, photography, ceramics, glass, graphics, jewelry, metal and more. Festival patrons have the opportunity to explore works at more than 135 booth spaces.

Featured performers for the "beats" of the event include 2014 "American Idol" runner-up Jena Irene and 2013 "X Factor" runner-up Jeff Gutt, both of metro Detroit. Other standout talent includes Motown legends, The Spinners, in addition to Night Ranger, Theory of a Deadman, Third Eye Blind and the Village People. Local acts like 50 Amp Fuse, Thornetta Davis and the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings Woodwind Trio will also fill out the extensive entertainment schedule.

More than 50 metro Detroit area restaurants bring great tastes for everyone with upscale menu choices and, new this year, healthy food options identified by a color-coded system for health-conscious visitors. These options include low-carb, low-fat, gluten free, sugar free and vegan fare. Featured restaurants include Pronto!, Star Lanes Restaurant & Sports Bar, Lockhart's BBQ and more, with food choices ranging from barbecue and pizza to Prime 29 Steakhouse's filet mignon sliders.

Arts, Beats & Eats will take place from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Aug. 29-31 and 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 1 in downtown Royal Oak. Admission is $3-5. For more information, call 248-541-7550 or visit www.artsbeatseats.com.

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Continued from p. 26

Tickets: $20
6 p.m.

Sept. 12

Voices
Presenting Organization: Ruth Ellis Center
College for Creative Studies, 460 W. Baltimore, Detroit
www.ruthelliscenter.org
Tickets: $75-500
6 p.m.

Sept. 13

Seventh Annual Beer Tasting Event
Presenting Organization: Flint Institute of Arts
Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint
810-234-1695 and www.flintarts.org
Tickets: $30-35
4 p.m.

Harvest of Hope
Presenting Organization: Ozone House
Polo Fields Golf Club - Washtenaw, 2955 Packard Road, Ypsilanti
734-662-2265 ext. 25 and www.ozonehouse.org
Tickets: $150
6:30 p.m.

Beethoven Festival with Andre Watts
Presenting Organization: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor
wwww.a2so.com
Tickets: $17-70
8 p.m.

Sept. 18-20

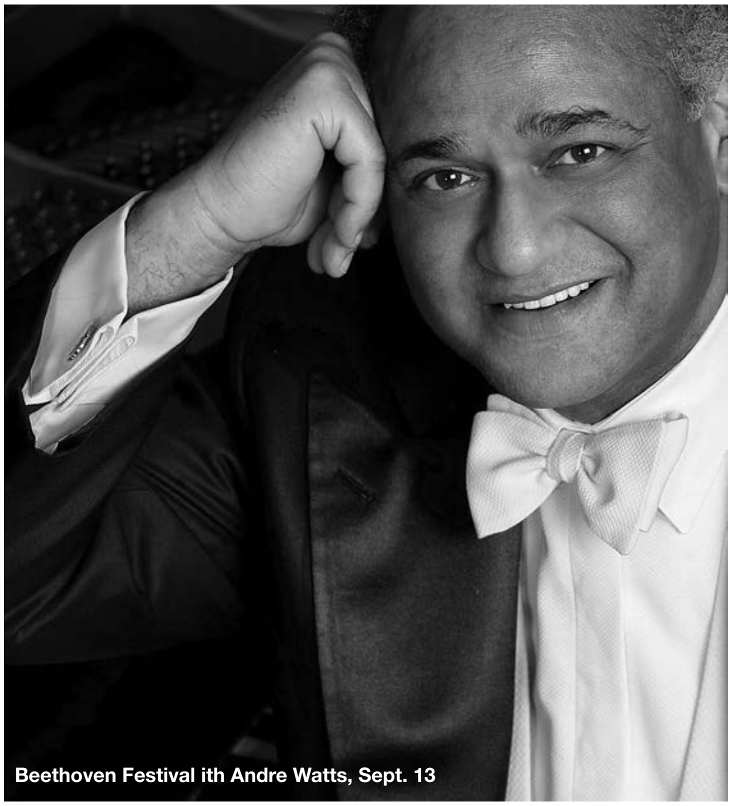
Dining By Design Detroit (DIFFA)
Presenting Organization: Quicken Loans and Michigan AIDS Coalition
The Former Federal Reserve Building, 160 W. Fort, Detroit
248-545-1485 ext. 105 and www.michiganaidscoalition.org
Tickets: $75-250
6 p.m.

Sept. 20

First Annual Oktoberfest
Presenting Organization: Benefiting the Taylor Reading Corps.
Taylor Conservatory, 22314 Northline Road, Taylor
www.taylorreadingcorps.org
Tickets: $20
5 p.m.

Sept. 26

Sixth Annual Brewed in Michigan
Presenting Organization: Brewed in Michigan, LaFontaine Automotive Group and Bakers of Milford
Bakers of Milford, 2025 S. Milford Road, Milford Township
www.eventbrite.com
Tickets: $30-40
7 p.m.



Beethoven Festival ith Andre Watts, Sept. 13

OCTOBER

Oct. 4

Beethoven, Bridges and Blue Jeans
Presenting Organization: Michigan Philharmonic
The Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
734-451-2112 / www.michiganphil.org
Tickets: $10-30
7:30 p.m.

Oct. 7

Update from the 20th World AIDS Conference in Austalia & HIV Prevention Workshop Including the Use of Truvada
Presenting Organization: Dr. Paul Benson
St. John Providence Oakland Hospital's Education Center, 27351 Dequindre, Madison Heights
drpaulbenson@doctorbewell.com or ddempster@matrixhs.org
6 p.m.

Oct. 11

Made in the USA BBQ
Presenting Organization: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Michigan Theater Lobby, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
www.a2so.com
Tickets: $25
5:30 p.m.

Vineyard, The Haunted Mansion: A Night of Wine & Bites to Die For
Presenting Organization: Affirmations
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
248-677-7211 and www.goaffirmations.org
Tickets: $35-45
7 p.m.

Made in the USA
Presenting Organization: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
www.a2so.com
Tickets: $15-62
8 p.m.

Oct. 12

Mozart's Magnificent Voyage
Presenting Organization: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
www.a2so.com
Tickets: $8-12
4 p.m.

Oct. 15-18

Edgefest 18: BAS(S)ically Sound
Presenting Organization: Kerrytown Concert House

Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor

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See Culture Calendar, page 31

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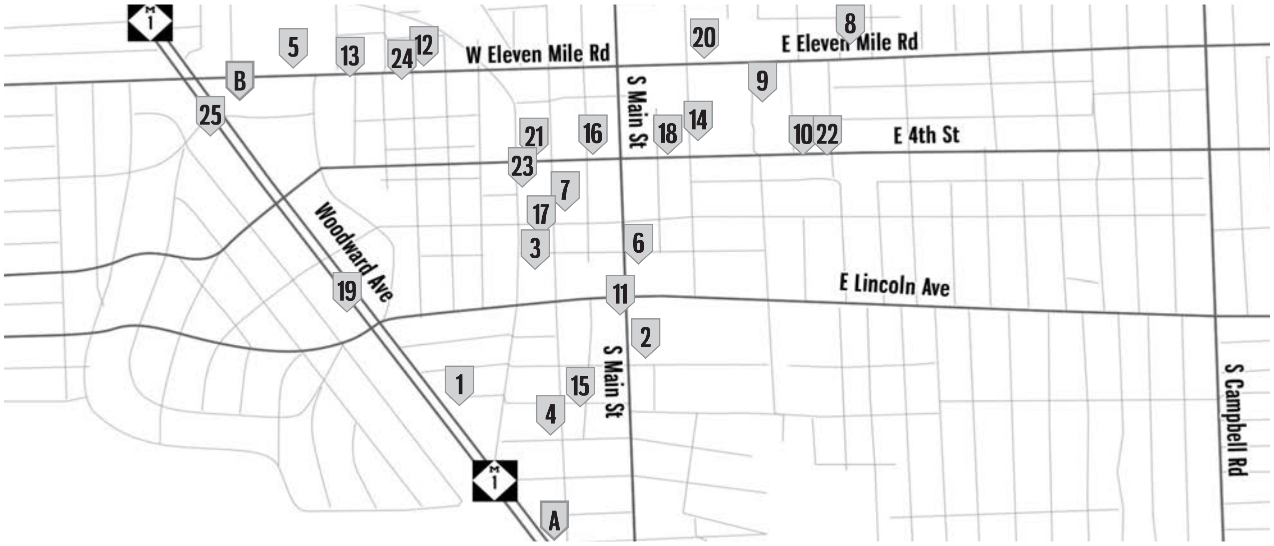

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Michigan Philharmonic's "Twilight of a Dark Knight," Oct. 25

► Culture Calendar

Continued from p. 29

Oct. 23

Sing for the Cure: A Proclamation of Hope
Presenting Organization: The Detroit Institute of Arts and Rackham Choir
DIA, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit
Tickets: $25-30
313-833-4005 and www.dia.org
8 p.m.

Oct. 24

Oct. 2014 Chamber
Presenting Organization: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor
www.a2so.com
Tickets: $9-10
1:30 p.m.

Sixth Annual Detroit Fall Beer Festival
Presenting Organization: Michigan Brewers Guild
Eastern Market, Detroit
www.mibeer.com
Tickets: $5-40
5 p.m.

Oct. 25

Sixth Annual Detroit Fall Beer Festival
Presenting Organization: Michigan Brewers Guild
Eastern Market, Detroit
www.mibeer.com
Tickets: $5-40
1 p.m.

Twilight of a Dark Knight
Presenting Organization: Michigan Philharmonic

Steppingstone School, 30250 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills

734-451-2112 and www.michiganphil.org

Tickets: $10-30.

7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 8

American POPSsical
Presenting Organization: Michigan Philharmonic
The Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
734-451-2112 and www.michiganphil.org
Tickets: $10-30
7:30 p.m.

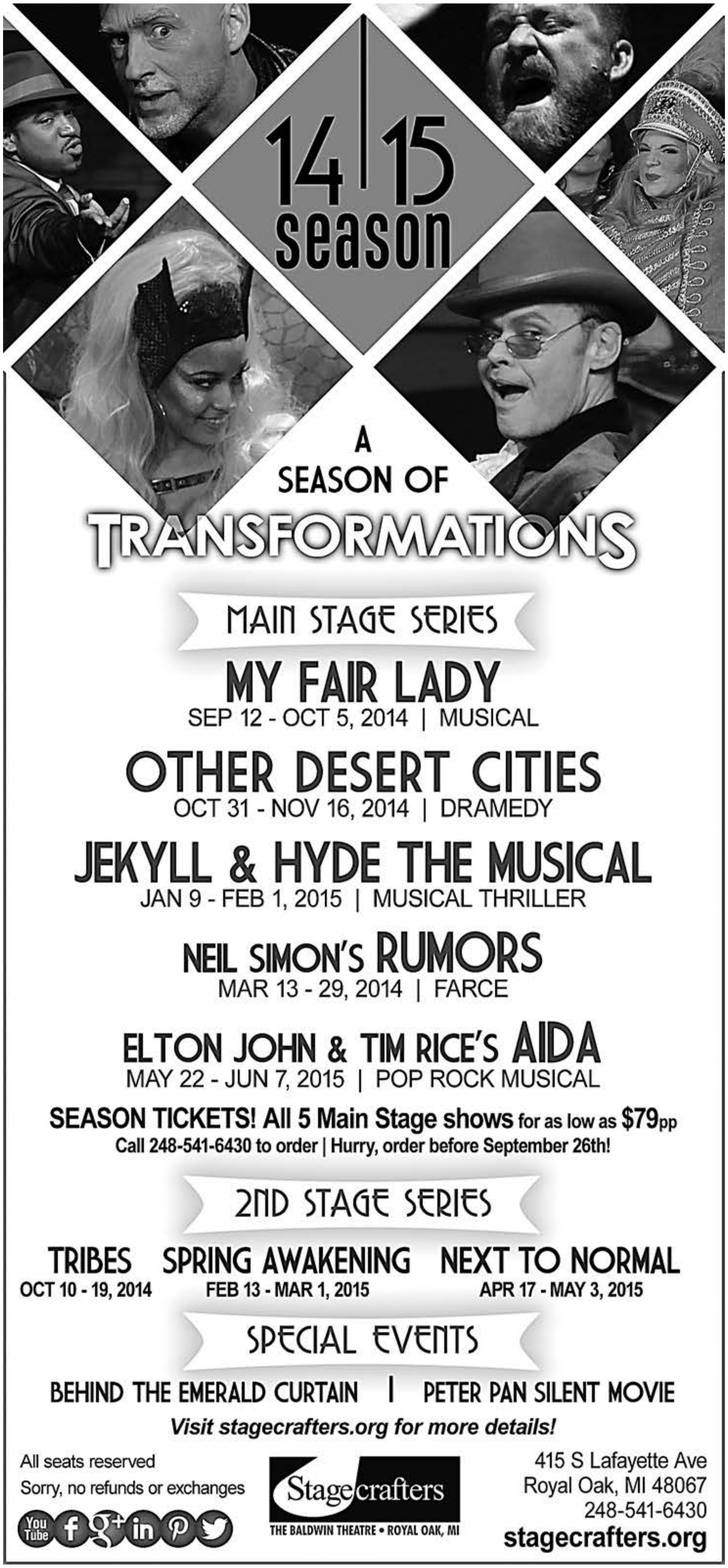
Nov. 15

Tchaikovsky & Friends
Presenting Organization: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
www.a2so.com
Tickets: $15-62.
8 p.m.

Nov. 21

Nov. 2014 Chamber
Presenting Organization: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor
www.a2so.com (Tickets: $9-10)
1:30 p.m.

Visit BTL's calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html for more autumn events.



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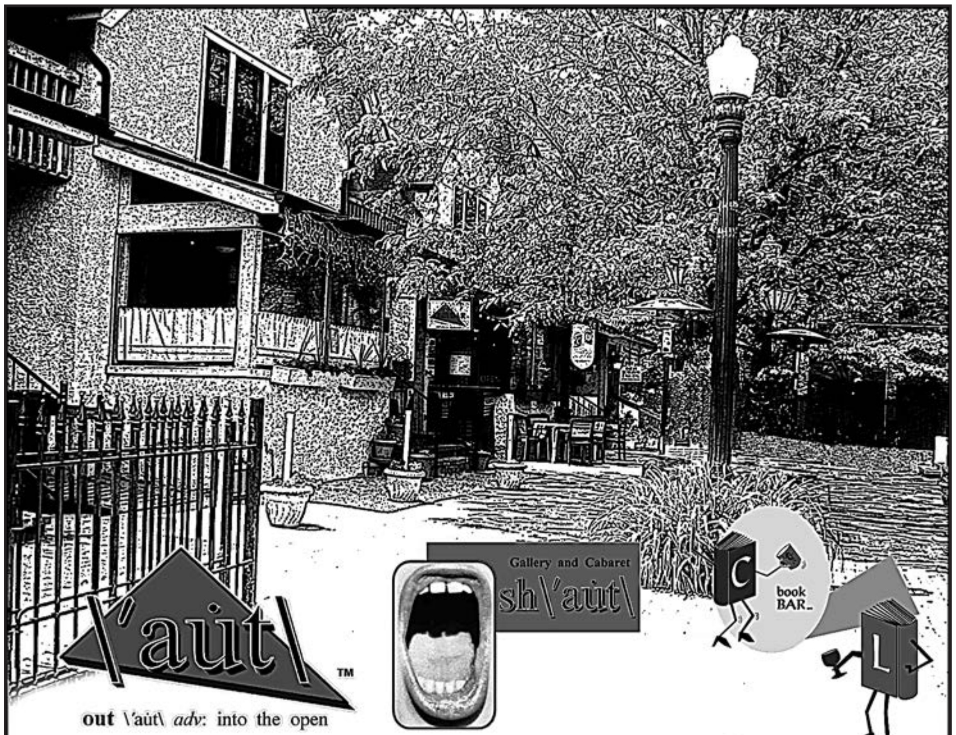

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It's Curtain Time For Theaters & Theatergoers Alike

2014 Fall Theater Season Promises Plenty Of Entertainment For All Ages

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Applause will soon be busting out all over Southeast Michigan, as area theater groups are about to raise their curtains on what promises to be an exciting 2014-15 season.

Theaters large and small – from community theaters to Broadway touring houses – have turned on the lights, fired up their box offices, and are ready to open their doors with their first shows of the season.

And what a season it promises to be!

Fans of classic plays and musicals are in for a treat this fall as many long-time favorites return to the stage. The fun begins Sept. 12-Oct. 5 when Stagecrafters brings "My Fair Lady," the musical adventures of Eliza Doolittle, to the Baldwin Theatre. Not to be outdone, the darkly comedic tale of two spinsters with a taste for murder comes to life Sept. 26-Oct. 18 when Farmington Players tells the tale of "Arsenic and Old Lace." The Fisher Theatre also joins the fun Sept. 26-Oct. 4 when everyone's favorite orphan returns in a completely made-over production of "Annie" – which is a great show to introduce the young ones in your life to the excitement of live theater. If Depression-era romantic comedies are your cup of tea, Tipping Point Theatre stages the rarely produced classic "The Rainmaker" Nov. 13-Dec. 14. And you'll find out "what the simple folk do" when "Camelot," the ancient tale of King Arthur and Lady Guinevere, marches in to the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts Nov. 1-2.

But what about for the women in your life, you may be wondering? The Fisher Theatre has the answer to that as well, with the return of two audience-pleasers: "Menopause The Musical," which was once the reigning queen of Detroit theater after a long run at Detroit's Gem Theatre (Oct. 14-16); and the ABBA-filled "Mamma Mia! (Oct. 17-19). Not to be outdone, the City Theatre inside Hockeytown Cafe will see the return of "Girls Night: The Musical," a "feel-good comedy" (with karaoke) about girlfriends for girlfriends (Nov. 6).

Krisha Marcano (Florence Ballard), Allison Semmes (Diana Ross) and Trisha Jeffrey (Mary Wilson) in "Motown The Musical," coming to Detroit's Fisher Theatre Oct. 21-Nov. 16. Photo: Joan Marcus

For a bloody good time, however, don't miss out on what has become a fall tradition in Downtown Detroit: The cult classic "Evil Dead: The Musical," which returns to the City Theatre - splatter seats and all - for another delightfully terrorizing run Oct. 1-25.

The other side of the spectrum is another annual must-see tradition: Meadow Brook Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" returns Nov. 14 -Dec. 21, and a better Christmas present will be hard to find!

If more-recent classics are more to your liking, the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre opens its season Sept. 11-14 with the green ogre loved by young and old alike, "Shrek." And laughs galore are promised in the delightful spoof by Monty Python, "Spamalot," thanks to The Encore Musical Theatre Company Sept. 18-Oct. 12.

Theatergoers who prefer stories with a little more meat and substance to them will find the pickings a bit slim this fall. But never fear: The Ringwald Theatre is presenting the complete "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes." Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama comes in two halves: "Part One: Millennium Approaches" will be the second show produced, running Sept. 12-27; "Part Two: Perestroika" hits the stage Sept. 5-29, and the two will run in repertory. And the newly rejuvenated Performance Network Theatre brings back noted local actor James Bowen in "Driving Miss Daisy" – first in Ann Arbor Sept. 25-Oct. 26, and later at the City Theatre Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

It's not a theater season without a visit from The Bard – and Shakespeare's popularity continues this fall with productions of "Romeo and Juliet" at the Hilberry Theatre Oct. 24-Dec. 13 and "Twelfth Night" courtesy of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Oct. 30-Nov. 2.

But if you simply like to laugh or enjoy new works, theatergoers will have plenty of options, beginning with the bittersweet comedy "Annapurna," which makes its Midwest debut at The Purple Rose Theater Sept. 18-Dec. 20. The next day (Sept. 19-Oct. 4) sees the Hilberry Theatre open its season with the classic farce, "Boeing Boeing." Then Nov. 6-Dec. 28, the state's longest-running Equity theater, the Detroit Repertory Theatre, continues nurturing brand new plays with the world premiere of "Buzz." And fans of local playwright Joseph Zettelmaier will have to travel to Williamston Theatre Sept. 25-Nov. 2 for the premiere of his latest script, "The Gravedigger: A Frankenstein Story."

There's plenty more, of course – including Michigan Opera Theatre's fall productions of "Elektra" (Oct. 18-26) and "Madame Butterfly" (Nov. 15-23).

And what is likely the most anxiously awaited show of the fall season, you ask? "Motown The Musical," of course, which comes home to the city where it all began, playing the Fisher Theatre Oct. 21-Nov. 16.

The bottom line is this: Although it's one of the world's best-kept secrets, Southeast Michigan is blessed with one of the most vibrant theater communities anywhere in the country - and that means theatergoers of all ages and tastes have plenty of choices for high-quality and affordable live stage entertainment. What more can a theater lover ask for?

For more information about the shows and theaters mentioned above:

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre (Ann Arbor): www.a2ct.org
Detroit Repertory Theatre (Detroit): www.detroitreptheatre.com
The Encore Musical Theatre Company (Dexter): www.theencoretheatre.org
Farmington Players (Farmington): www.farmingtonplayers.org
Fisher Theatre (Detroit): www.broadwayindetroit.com
Fox Theatre & City Theatre (Detroit): www.olympiaentertainment.com
Hilberry Theatre (Detroit): theatreanddance.wayne.edu
Macomb Center for the Performing Arts (Clinton Township): www.macombcenter.com
Meadow Brook Theatre (Rochester): www.mbtheatre.com
Michigan Opera Theatre (Detroit): www.michiganopera.org
Performance Network Theatre (Ann Arbor): www.pntheatre.org
The Purple Rose Theatre Company (Chelsea): www.purplerosetheatre.org
The Ringwald Theatre (Ferndale): www.theringwald.com
Stagecrafters (Royal Oak): www.stagecrafters.org
Tipping Point Theatre (Northville): www.tippingpointtheatre.com
Williamston Theatre (Williamston): williamstontheatre.org

Mindfully MRAZ

How The Musician Is Changing The World One Label At A Time

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

I won't tell you what Jason Mraz told me during our interview in early 2012. Realizing after the fact that a political remark could potentially shake up his love club, he graciously asked me to omit that bit from the story. I did.

Over two years later, I'm reminded once again of Mraz's mindfulness. Evident both in the meditative nature of his sun-kissed ditties and his conversational style – ruminations preceded by long stretches of thought-processing silence – it's a quality that continues to endear the self-proclaimed "geek in pink" to hopeless romantics around the world.

The do-gooder's foundation for solidarity was set during the dawning of his big break just over a decade ago, when – with his 2002 major-label debut, "Waiting for My Rocket to Come" – he had the "Remedy" for you, but also for his soaring career. Now, and certainly with his latest release, "Yes!," it's not just the mission of the singer-songwriter's music, which has long been part of a grander plan to bring the world into community. For Mraz, it's a manifesto.

"Labels separate us," the 37-year-old said outright on his blog after our last chat - a chat that inspired him to profess his post-interview thoughts in a 1,200-word essay on one point in particular: the boxes we put one another in. "In our short lives, we strive to find meaning here," he wrote on March 23, 2012, "and we long to be loved and accepted while we're at it. Therefore, anyone calling us anything other than brother, bro, friend or amigo, is literally cutting us down ... ."

Fast-forward to a recent call: Mraz is in Japan, where it's currently 4 a.m., and we're picking up where we left off. Dead air lingers as I ask him exactly *how* labels neutralize our efforts to achieve what he's long stood for: unification.

"Man..."

(Mraz divulged via his blog that answering "why" questions are a challenge for him; "how" inquiries turn out to be just as demanding).

"Deep breath."

He mulls it over and eventually recalls an NPR segment he heard that morning. The talk concerned digital etiquette and whether it's ever appropriate to text at the dinner table, and it perfectly dovetails his take on labels. "There's a time and place for it," Mraz ultimately concludes, mirroring manners and labels. "So, I think it depends on how you use it (the label). By breaking down labels and barriers, it allows us to really see that we really are in this human struggle together every day – this struggle for survival."

Mraz knows the struggle. He's lived it. In high school, he was the victim of harsh ridicule. Jocks called him "fag" for being a cheerleader, and his fondness for musical theater only intensified those perpetual taunts. But, Mraz says, bullying – which he tells me is "a social pain in the ass" – exists because labels do.

"The more that we can break down

INFO

Jason Mraz

7:30 p.m. Nov. 6
Fox Theatre
2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit
olympiaentertainment.com

labels and understand that all of us are gonna be insecure from time to time, I think that's a plus for us all. Name-calling and all this – that's labeling. It just comes down to manners. Manners are the best thing we can do – say 'please' and 'thank you' before and after just about everything.

"Saying 'I did it. I am victorious. I am the winner in this struggle, and I'm really proud of that and proud of who I am' – there's nothing wrong in being victors, but at the same time, do so in a way that doesn't separate yourself from others. In fact, do it in a way that invites others to share in that glory."

Mraz certainly has. From the get-go, he's invited everyone into his winner's circle. You could say, actually, that his whole career has been one big group hug. The "Lucky" musician's prizewinning path, from ridiculed outcast to Grammy-winning pop star, is a victory in and of itself, but it's a victory he shares with fans; with Raining Jane, the girl group who paints "Yes!" with their distinct harmonies and writing skills (he's currently touring with them because, he says, they're so integral to his latest music); and, especially, with the gay community.

Donating resources to LGBT organizations like the Human Rights Campaign and Cyndi Lauper's True Colors Fund, Mraz continually fights on the front lines of equality. Having gone as far as vowing not to marry until everyone has that right, he's been such a champion of gay issues that his own sexuality has been a constant subject of speculation. Mraz chalks it up to the times.

"We're in a period of transition where the nation is coming out. Whether you as an individual are coming out literally and announcing what your sexuality is, or we as a nation are just finally embracing it.

"Certainly in my younger years it wasn't like this. I have a feeling in the next 10 years it's gonna be even more revolutionary. So, during any period of transition we're free to talk, we're free to have those curiosities, and we want everyone to just come out. The more that we all just come out about it, the less interesting it's gonna be, and then the transition will be complete."

Though he's been pegged as "bisexual," the freewheeling hipster has never made any definitive "coming out" statement regarding his own sexuality (remember, he doesn't do labels), but he's always indulged the public's curiosity with respectable integrity and, to keep you guessing, an air of mystery.

Regarding the interest to know how he swings, Mraz laughs, saying, "I'm flattered when anyone is curious about my sexuality, because that makes me think that they assume I'm gettin' some no matter what."

In our 2012 interview, Mraz expressed his desire to live more fearlessly when it comes to his sexual endeavors, noting, "I'm keeping more of my options open." He stopped short of explaining how, but he did go on to confess that, "I've been invited by couples to join them and I'm really turned on by that. I've never taken them up on it, though."

He admits now, during this follow-up, that sexuality is "a very delicate thing to have a conversation about – and with anyone!" But he understands why it's a conversation he continues to have. In fact, Mraz has the same curiosities about people. His own buddies, even. In particular, he mentions a lady friend who may or may not be a virgin. "I don't know what her sexual interests are," Mraz says, "and I actually feel kind of creepy that I'm curious! But she doesn't kiss and tell, and I really admire that. I kind of wish I could be that way."

Regarding who geeks his pink, it all goes back to manners – to time and place. "It depends on what the use is for," he says about people wanting to know how he sexually identifies. "If it's my mom and she wants to know, if it's a friend of mine, I get it, but – no offense – if it's just a magazine who wants to talk about me, then I don't know what the true integrity is of that question."

So then, of course, I ask if, in the two years since we last chatted, he's been able to live more "fearlessly." You know, can Jason Mraz check off that "threesome" box on his to-do list? He cracks a reluctant laugh.

Silence.

"I wanna be politically correct and be honest with my answer at the same time ...

"I'll just say, in the years after we last spoke I had a great time exploring this and that and checking a lot of things off my curiosity list. As a result, I found myself in a really solid relationship with someone who loves me *because* I have been strong enough to pursue my career dreams, and to explore my curiosities, and to have many muses and to be who I am. So yeah, to answer your question, and without giving you any details, I had *a lot* of fun." (Mraz, a farmer, is more forthcoming about the "fun" he's had with avocados: "On more than one occasion I probably put them down my pants or up my shirt and pretended to have much larger erogenous zones.")

Once a relatively open book to the media (in a 2008 Out interview, he recalled "random, quick gay club experiences" that were sexual, and his story about getting peed on by a guy is pretty great), he admits that, as a public figure, giving too much of yourself away is a "fine line." He isn't just minding his manners – Mraz is being *mindful*.

"I learn every year, because I open my mouth in some ways thinking I'm helping and I end up hurting someone's feelings. I have to atone for my mistakes and learn from them and try to be a little more accurate and clearer with my intentions," he reveals, before mentioning a career endeavor that we can, and should, thank him for: "I've spoken up for the things that are important to me, and I just hope that other people speak up for what's important to them."

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Puzzle solution on pg. 38

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 28

Midwest Invational Softball Tournament Thursday Night Party Detroit MIST, 928 McNichols Road W, **Detroit.** 313-863-3934. Detroitmist.com

Vacation Bible School for All Ages 5 p.m. All are invited. Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., **Detroit.** 810-767-4911. Woodsidechurch.net

Toastmaster's International SpeakOUT! Club 7 p.m. Toastmasters will show you how to listen more effectively, think on your feet and speak confidently Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, Aug. 29

Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament - Detroit 12 a.m. Detroit MIST, 46555 W. Michigan Ave, **Canton.** 586-945-4029. info@detroitmist.com Detroitmist.com

Midwest Invational Softball Tournament Friday Night Party Detroit MIST, **Livonia.** Detroitmist.com

Old Town Farmer's Market 3 p.m. Old Town Farmer's Market, Corner of E. Grand River Ave. and Center St., **Lansing.** Iloveoldtown.org

Movie Night 7:30 p.m. Movies of an LGBT nature. Free. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek.** Battlecreekpride.org

Saturday, Aug. 30

Midwest Invational Softball Tournament Saturday Night Party Detroit MIST, **Detroit.** Detroitmist.com

Lez Read Ann Arbor 4 p.m. We read fascinating books on all lesbian topics, including books of local authors. And our discussions are always lively and provocative. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Sunday, Aug. 31

Midwest Invational Softball Tournament Sunday Closing Party Detroit MIST, **Ann Arbor.** Detroitmist.com

Outpouring 12:30 p.m. LGBT-affirming service. Non-denominational Christian. Affirming Love Ministries, 9550 Oakland Ave., **Detroit.** Affirmingloveministries. webs.com

Too Wong Foo Drag Family Picnic & Fun Day 1 p.m. Drag Picnic. Vendor Tables Available for $25. 00. Drag Showcase $25. 00 per act. Free. Detroit Pride Showcase, On Merrill Plaisance between 6 and 7 Mile Roads, west of Woodward Ave., **Detroit.** 313-957-9367. detroitpridepageant@outlook.com Detroitpridepageant.com

Pride NA 6:30 p.m. Confidential and anonymous. Open to all individuals impacted by addiction. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo.** 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Euchre Tournament 7 p.m. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek.** Battlecreekpride.org

Regardless Of (Narcotics Anonymous Meeting) 7 p.m. This is a closed meeting for addicts or those who think they might have a drug problem. This may be a Common Needs meeting, but any addict seeking recovery is welcome! The time has come that any addict seeking recovery in the Washtenaw area can find it. The more diverse the fellowship, the more members we are able to reach! The goal is to make the message of recovery available to all so that any addict can come to NA and feel that they too belong in this fellowship! Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Drag Queen Addictions 10:30 p.m. LaBelle and Aretha Franklin impersonator April Summers brings her big personality to the stage as she introduces a lineup of drag stars. 18+. Inuendo Nightclub, Corner of Nevada St. and Southbound I-75, **Detroit.** https:// facebook.com/inuendo.nightclub?rf=118209121607517

Monday, Sept. 1

Midwest Invational Softball Tournament Featuring MDSL. Detroit MIST, 46555 W. Michigan Ave, **Canton.** Detroitmist.com

Center Open - Drop In 7 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Tuesday, Sept. 2

Aff Action Night 6 p.m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Because We Are Worth It (Sex Addicts Anonymous LGBTQ Meeting) 6:30 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Life's a Stitch 6:30 p.m. Open to those who Crochet, Knit, Quilt, Needlepoint, Macrame and Jewelry. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Wednesday, Sept. 3

LGBT Summer Film Series Different film each date. Affirmations & GOAL, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak.** 248-414-1000. Facebook.com/murrayandpeterpresent

HIV Testing 6 p.m. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org/events/event_details. asp?id=430531

Dykes on Bikes - Monthly Planning Meeting 6:30 p.m. Monthly meeting to plan rides and socialize. A great group of women who welcome new members with all levels of experience. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Sistrum Weekly Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capital Ave., **Lansing.** Sistrum.org

Thursday, Sept. 4

Free HIV Testing 2 p.m. Free anonymous HIV testing in-store at S3 every Thursday 2-8. Call to make an appointment, or walk-ins welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HARC, 1209 S. University, **Ann Arbor.** 734-741-1434. info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

Raising the Steaks: Dining Out at Logan's Roadhouse 4 p.m. Support Affirmations by dining out at any of seven locations in metro-Detroit every First Thursday. Affirmations, **Various.** Goaffirmations.org

Connections 6 p.m. Open to all LGBTQ and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBTQ and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo.** 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

First Thursdays 6 p.m. Mixer. LGBTQ Networking Group, **Kalamazoo.** Kglrc.org

Free HIV Testing 6 p.m. The AIDS Service Organization, **Lansing.**

Family & Friends 7 p.m. Topics vary from month to month. This is a gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Join us as we offer support, share our experiences, and learn about the issues impacting the LGBTQ and allied community. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield.** 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

Red Robot 7 p.m. Ageplay group. Every first Thursday. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, Sept. 5

SCA Farmer's Market 9 a.m. Those wishing to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, including baked goods, cheeses, honey products, flowers, and related food products made regionally or by the vendor should apply. A limited number of hand-crafted items can be included; goods that relate to the serving or enjoyment of food products will be given priority consideration in this category. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck.** 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Debra DiGiovanni: Single Awkward Female - One of Canada's hottest comedians, award-winning radio host and TV star Debra DiGiovanni headlines this hilarious stand-up special with her trademark brutal honesty that has led to her being named the "best comedian to see after a messy breakup." Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Pride Friday 9 p.m. The one and only gay night. 18+. Guys with college ID get in free before 11 p.m. Cover: $5+. Necto, 516 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor.** 734-994-5835. Thenecto.com

Saturday, Sept. 6

Kink 12 a.m. 18+. Film. Tickets: $15+. The Main Art Theatre, **Royal Oak.** Goaffirmations.org

Pride Media Exhibition Come and check out all the great local talent in Southeast Michigan! Interested in being one of our featured artists? Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride A day of music, games, food and fun for the whole family. Kids games in the afternoon and a drag show in the evening for adults. Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride, **Marquette.** Uprainbowpride. com/

Drag Queen Bingo 10 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot

See Happenings, page 40

Editor's Pick

The Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament – Detroit (MIST) comes to the metro area this week. The event features MDSL, metro Detroit's LGBT softball league, kicking off with tonight's party at Menjo's, 928 McNichols Road, in Detroit. Friday through Sunday features the actual competition, held in the Canton Sports Center at 46555 W. Michigan Ave.

Other MIST events include the Friday night party, to be held at the Detroit Marriott Livonia at 17100 N. Laurel Park Dr. Saturday night's party will be held at Hayloft Saloon in Detroit, located at 8070 Greenfield Road. Ann Arbor's Necto hosts the closing party on Sunday at 516 E. Liberty St.

MIST runs from Aug. 28-31. For information on tickets, times and more, visit www.detroitmist.com.

Hear Me Out

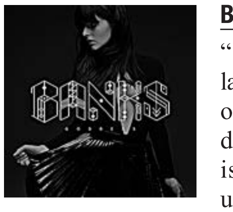
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Barbra Streisand, Banks

STREISAND
Partners
with
ANDREA BOCELLI MICHAEL BUBLÉ BABYFACE JASON GOULD
JOSH GROBAN BILLY JOEL JOHN LEGEND JOHN MAYER ELVIS PRESLEY
LIONEL RICHIE BLAKE SHELTON STEVIE WONDER

Barbra Streisand, 'Partners'

Joined by a plethora of esteemed men on "Partners," Barbra Streisand duets with one in particular that stands out above the rest: her gay son, Jason Gould. The two share Irving Berlin's 1932 ballad "How Deep is the Ocean," a good fit for a gay-son-and-mom moment (the two initially premiered the song last year at the icon's Brooklyn show). It's something truly special as their voices build in unison to a soaring climax. That innate dynamic doesn't mean that the rest of her boys don't bring it. Babyface lays down his creamy-as-caramel voice on "Evergreen," making literal on the "one love that is shared by two" declaration; "New York State of Mind" with Billy Joel is spine-tingly (cute, too, as Babs ends the song by inviting Billy for a slice of NYC pizza); and when Josh Groban joins Streisand for "Somewhere," it's a match made in vocal heaven. You also can't go wrong with Michael Bublé's velvety croon on "It Had to Be You," a winsome rendition so warm and fuzzy – and with a nice personal touch – you'll wanna grab someone by the hand and dance in the streets. That romantic sentiment extends to "Love Me Tender," where Babs resurrects Elvis Presley. Their virtual twosome is indicative of the overarching problem with "Partners": It's stuck in the past. (Its only departure, an unexpected duet with Blake Shelton, is as awkward as you're imagining it to be right now). Instead of Lionel Richie, John Legend, Stevie Wonder and Andrea Bocelli, how about shaking it up, Babs? Give us a little grit (try Steven Tyler). More old meets new (Justin Timberlake or Bruno Mars, perhaps?) Because as it stands, "Partners," though obviously an impeccable vocal showcase, is too predictable to be anything more than redundant schmaltz. *Grade: C+*



Banks, 'Goddess'

"Goddess," the larger-than-life title of Jillian Banks' debut album, isn't much of an understatement. Anyone who's been following the 26-year-old's steady rise to stardom since she released two EPs last year knows she's destined to take that throne. Long before dropping this trance-y throng of brooding feels – sentiments draped atop a goth fusion of fuzz, keyboard punches and pulsating bass (think James Blake meets Feist) – everyone had their eye on this mysterious Los Angeles wunderkind. And for good reason. "Goddess" is a slow burner – but once it clicks, it consumes. Creeping up on you, "The Waiting Game" builds on a murmured vocal loop with a whirling synthesis of drone-y sounds. Just as you're caught up in its hypnotic reverb, it ends abruptly. All of its air sucked out, you're left as breathless as its coda. "Brain" is folk music from the future. Sexy and soulful, and with a shadowy aura that eventually owns every piece of your being, it inspires a fugue state. With inklings of Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu present in Banks' celestial, R&B-inspired singing, the album's urban edge incites sophisticated simplicity and a lingering evocativeness. "Beggin for Thread," for instance, is an example of how you do dark for the masses (in the age of Lorde, the song should already be a big hit). And with it, it's clear Banks won't have to do much begging. If you're not already praising this "Goddess," you will be. *Grade: B+*

Also Out

Spoon, 'They Want My Soul'

For the last 20 years, the fellas of Austin band Spoon have turned rock inside out. They're at it again with their genre-busting eighth outing. A conduit for their hooky strums, offbeat quirks and spirited meanders, "They Want My Soul" harnesses the classic sensibility of the Stones and AC/DC, meandering with its own set of impulses and a no-rules mentality. "I Just Don't Understand" jangles with guitar, eventually breaking into piano-bar mode, and "Outlier" dances around with an exhilarating spirit. "They Want My Soul" is newly released but already sounds like a classic.

FKA Twigs, 'LP1'

Don't let FKA Twigs intimidate you. Pioneering R&B's future with her progressive full-length debut, the English innovator turns the genre on its head with techie effects from the next generation. If that makes Twigs sound intense, it's because she is. Listen to "Lights On" and try not to wander into space along with it. An anomaly set on an ambitious vision, using glitch, grime and her galaxy-reaching falsetto to work up a sexed-up fantasia, "LP1" tests the outer limits in a way that forces you to stick around.

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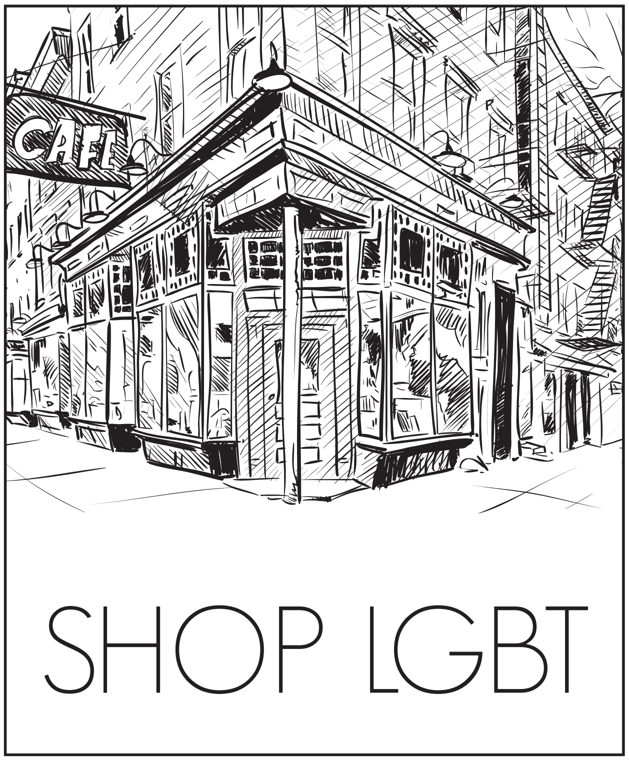
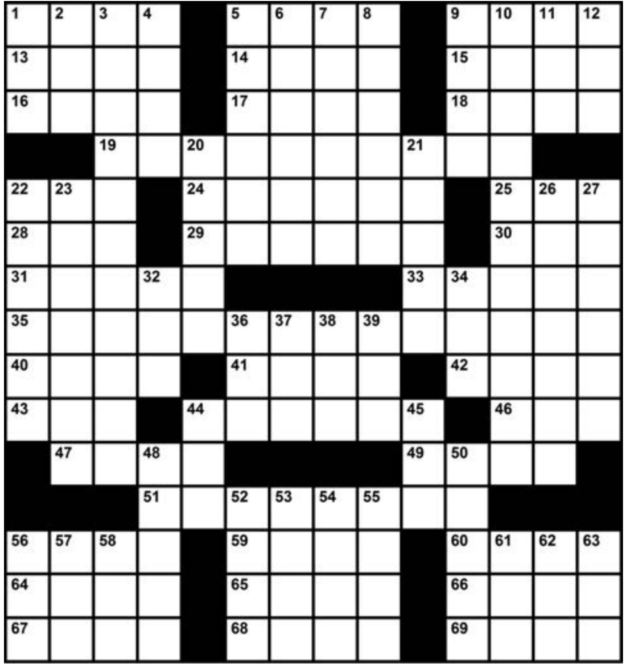


Q Puzzle

Message Received



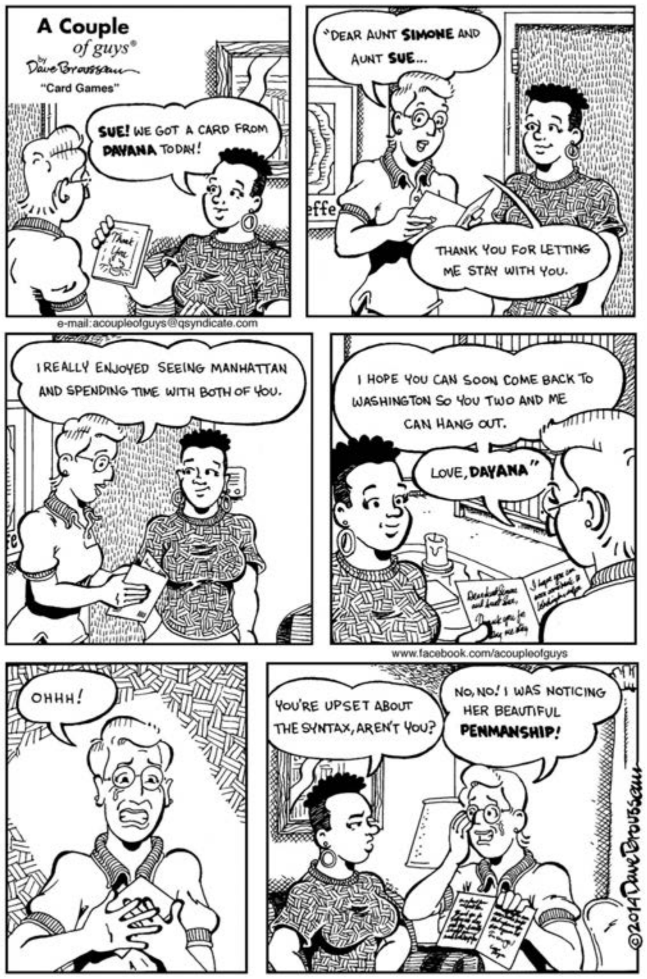
Across

1 A little behind
5 Does a birth rite
9 Like America's Betty
13 Lysol target
14 Coup d'___ (rebellion)
15 Gardening tools for prostitutes?
16 Have sex with
17 Verb of Verlaine
18 Like Obama's office
19 Start of a message often received by 44-Across
22 What Etheridge puts out
24 Early release
25 Monopoly foursome (abbr.)
28 Old Olds
29 Buck it, with "the"
30 B-ball championship
31 Words after easy
33 Coitis
35 More of the message
40 Kisser
41 Come down in buckets
42 Concerning
43 Long, to a Samurai?
44 YouTube personality Tyler
46 Heteros, on PlanetOut?
47 Tickle Me Elmo, e.g.
49 High flat area
51 End of the message
56 Way to address a dominatrix
59 Artist Catherine
60 Beat barely
64 Trucker's shaft
65 Use a trick towel
66 Rod attachment
67 Young women who have balls
68 Pull a fast one
69 "Dorian" novelist Will

Down

1 High tennis shot from Mauresmo
2 Canine care org.
3 High-voiced gangster?
4 Proof part
5 Street named for writer Harper?
6 Slim bears
7 Pirate's bird
8 "Remington ___ "
9 Ejaculation of concern
10 Mary Poppins and Maria Von Trapp
11 DeLaria of "Orange Is the New Black"
12 Big initials in fashion
20 Unexpected victory
21 City near Phoenix
22 Cunning
23 Had the hots for
26 Cheese of Versace's homeland
27 Pool parties?
32 AOL, e.g.
34 Gershwin of "Of Thee I Sing"
36 4.0, for example
37 NASA "thumbs-up"
38 Brynner of "The King and I"
39 Prefix with pubescent
44 Cheer for Lorca
45 Singer Sumac
48 Juicy fruits
50 They have big mouths
52 Nonvulgar swearing
53 Homer work
54 Talk show cohost
55 Come across as
56 Nuts or bananas
57 Tin Woodsman's tool
58 Vestment for Mychal Judge
61 "Look at Me, I'm Sandra ___"
62 Come together
63 One who wears very little clothing

Solution on pg. 36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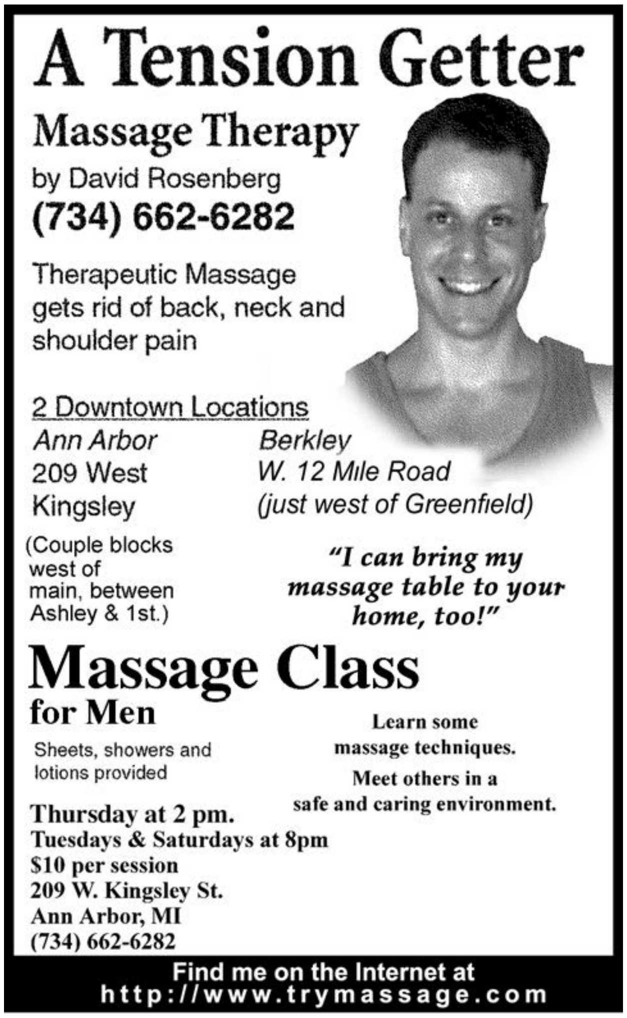
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Editor's Pick

After a highly successful run of Tony Kushner's "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" directed by Joe Bailey, The Ringwald Theatre is thrilled to open its eighth season with both parts of this epic play, "Millennium Approaches" and "Perestroika." Working from a newly-revised script that includes new material from Kushner, Jamie Warrow assumes directing duties for "Perestroika."

"Angels in America" will begin with performances of "Perestroika" on Friday, Sept. 5 and will play all Saturday evenings, Sunday matinees and Monday evenings through Sept. 29. "Millennium Approaches" will begin the subsequent Friday (Sept. 12), and continue for all following Fridays through Sept. 26. There will be two Saturdays in which both parts will play the same day.

Tickets for the all-day marathon are $29. Ticket prices for all other performances are $10-20. Tickets can be purchased at www.TheRingwald.com or at the theater box office.

The Ringwald is located at 22742 Woodward Avenue in the Times Square of Ferndale.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 36

spots. Shows get out just early enough for you to hit the local clubs or bars! Refreshments from our full coffee bar (coffees, teas, smoothies), sodas, water, and more. Tickets: $20. 18+. Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave. , **Royal Oak.** 248-515-2551. Five15. net

W. E. T. Detroit Monthly Party 10 p.m. Party for Queer Women. First Saturday of the month. Different theme for each event. Cover: $5. W. E. T. Detroit, 2906 Cass Ave. , **Detroit.** Facebook. com/W. E. T. Detroit

MUSIC & MORE

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Comedy Jamm" It's cut-loose comedy as we present the comedy of 12 of the current rising stars in the Detroit Metro area and beyond. Tickets: $5. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 8 - Sept. 25. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Blind Pig "Kris Allen" 18+. Tickets: $15-50. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 28. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Citizens Bank "Arts, Beats and Eats" A culturally unique presentations of artists, musicians and food exhibits from the Metro Detroit area. Tickets: $3-5. Downtown Royal Oak, Royal Oak. Aug. 30 - Sept. 1. artsbeatseats.com

Cranbrook Art Museum "Modern / Moderna: Amie Siegel and Terence Gower". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Aug. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Michigan Theater "The Meaning of Life". Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sept. 4. 734-668-8397. Michtheater.org

The Acorn Theater "Emile Pandolfi" Pianist. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 30. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

The Ark "Chris Robinson Brotherhood" Tickets: $25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 2. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Beoga" Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 28. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Blue Water Folk Society "Thumbfest 2014" New and returning performers feature music across the spectrum -- roots, folk, New Orleans brass, Celtic, Americana and bluegrass. The Blue Water Folk Society, Lexington. 10 a.m. Aug. 30. Bluewaterfolksociety.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Guys and Dolls $12-17. Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., Richmond. Sep. 5 - 21. 586-727-9518. www.richmondtheatre.com

Professional

Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika $10-29. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 5 - 29. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Beehive $39-42. Mason Street Warehouse, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 31. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

ComedySportz Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 877-636-3320. www.comedysportzdetroit.com

Forever Plaid $35-41. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through Sep. 7. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

Hello, Dolly! $35 adult; $25 ages 12 and under. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through Aug. 31. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatre.com

Laundry and Bourbon and Lone Star $20. The Snug Theatre, 160 S. Water St., Marine City. Sep. 5 - 21. 810-278-1749. www.thesnugtheatre.com

Sleeping Beauty $5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Sep. 6 - 28. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Sundays at Go Comedy! $10 in advance or pay-what-you-can at the door. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

The Big Bang $15-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 31. 734-663-0681. www.pntheatre.org

The Big Story of Lazarus Small $10-20. Planet Ant, Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Sep. 5 - 27. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

The Creation of the Wizard of Oz $15. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 2 p.m. Aug. 31. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

The Last Romance $18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 30. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

The Value of Names $41-48. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Sep. 3 - Oct. 12. 248-788-2900. www.jettheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Modern/ Moderna: Amie Siegel and Terence Gower" Witness an exploration of Modernism through the examination of two contemporary artworks. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. July 1 - Aug. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrook.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "Cranbrook Goes to the Movies: Films and Their Objects, 1925-1975" . Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Nov. 30. 877-462-7262. www.Cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "Culture Breakers: The Living Structures of Ken Isaacs" . Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Oct. 5. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "Warhol On Vinyl: The Record Covers, 1949-1987+" Drawing from the world's preeminent collection of record covers by Andy Warhol, this exhibition showcases how Warhol used the record cover as a means to popularize his name and directly impact popular culture. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Oct. 31. 877-462-7262. www.Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "If You Build It, They Will Come" With this exciting open-call challenge, more than 175 Detroit area artists each selected five wood pieces to use in creating the unique and collectible works of art featured in this fun, end-of-summer exhibition. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 1 - Aug. 29. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Detroit -- Bruce Weber" Photographs. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 20 - Sept. 7. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Hanging with a Friend" Artists collaborations. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. July 25 - Aug. 28. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Oil & Acrylics Class" Tickets: $10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Jan. 7 - Nov. 25. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Michigan State University Museum "Evolution in Action" New exhibit explores evolution of biological systems and technologies - evolution in living things, and also in computers and engineering. A new exhibit, "50,000" reveals an ongoing experiment where scientists have observed bacteria growing, competing, and evolving for 50,000 generations in only 23 years. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Aug. 4 - Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. museum. msu.edu

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" Exhibit highlights Michigan connections in the Civil War. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Aug. 4 - Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. museum. msu.edu

River's Edge Gallery "River From the Underground" Brings two unlikely artists together: Johnny Bee Badanjek, from the world of rock, and Amy Chenier, originally from the world of sports and statement art. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. July 1 - Aug. 31. 734-246-9880. Artatthedge.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Touching Strangers" Richard Renaldi's photography exhibit. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Aug. 29 - Nov. 1. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Scarab Club "Fiber Exhibition". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Aug. 1 - Sept. 6. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

Editor's Pick

The Too Wong Foo Drag Family Picnic and Fun Day comes to Detroit this Labor Day Weekend. The event, sponsored by the Detroit Pride Showcase, will be held in Palmer Park. Detroit Pride Showcase is designed to educate, motivate and celebrate cultural awareness and alternative lifestyles.

Those interested in participating can set up a vendor table or perform in the drag showcase for $25. Otherwise, the drag picnic is free to attend. Carnival rides, games, entertainment and more will all be on hand.

The family picnic and fun day will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 31. The picnic will be in Palmer Park on Merrill Plaisance, between Six and Seven Mile Roads in Detroit. For more information, call 313-957-9367 or visit www.detroitpridepageant.com.

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Fall Into DIA's New Exhibitions

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

As temperatures cool at a steady rate, Michiganders move from kayaking and picnicking to museums, bars and other indoor activities. And this fall, the DIA has something for everyone.

Run to the museum to catch the "Detroit-Bruce Weber" exhibit, running through Sept. 7. The special exhibition features noted photographer Bruce Weber's images of Detroit culture, tradition and urban style. The photos, taken between 2006 and 2013, explore landmarks old and new: Kronk Gym, Belle Isle and more. "The art there (in Detroit) just doesn't happen in a museum. It happens out on the street, and I'm not talking about graffiti," says Weber.

Two newly acquired lithographs from famed French Artists Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Pierre Bonnard will soon be on exhibit. According to the DIA, "Lithographs were very popular and widely collected. They are very fragile and overexposure to light will rapidly fade the colors and damage the paper on which they are printed. For these reasons, individual prints are not constantly on view." Guests at the museum will be lucky enough to see multiple lithographs at once.

Toulouse-Lautrec's "Miss Loie Fuller" depicts an American dancer who made waves in Paris, while Bonnard's "Child with Lamp" features the painter's 12th attempt at working with multiple colors. The former artist is known for being one of the most brilliant avant-garde artists of the 1890s, while Bonnard's renown came from his work on posters.

Both lithographs, in addition to other images from the period, will be exhibited in "Ordinary People by Extraordinary Artists: Works on Paper by Degas, Renoir, and Friends" opening Sept. 19.

If the trek to Detroit is a bit too difficult, the DIA is continuing its Inside/Out project. The roving exhibit installs high-quality reproductions of artwork featured in the museum throughout the metro Detroit area, inside or outside of various businesses, parks and more. Eight new locations have recently been chosen, with masterpieces now feature in Brownstown Township, Dearborn, Detroit, the Detroit Riverwalk, Mt. Clemens, Oak Park, Royal Oak, St. Clair Shores and Wixom. All copies will be on display through Oct. 31.

Later this autumn, the DIA will open a special exhibition of Dutch-born Corine Vermeulen's photography. The artist was commissioned by the DIA to photograph Detroiters to share their stories of the diverse city and its multiple venues of support and engagement. Some featured subjects of her work include individuals from Detroit Focus Hope, D-Town Farms, Recycle Here and the East Side Riders. The exhibition, "Photographs from the Detroit Wak-In Portrait Studio by Corine Vermeulen," will open Nov. 14 and run until the spring. A preview of the show will be held the night before opening.

Beyond art, the DIA will continue to host its "Friday Night Live!" performances every Friday at 7 and 8:30 p.m. Each Friday, different performers showcases their talent. Check with BTL's calendar and the DIA for more details.

The DIA is located at 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The museum is closed on Monday. For more information, visit www.dia.org or call 313-833-7900.

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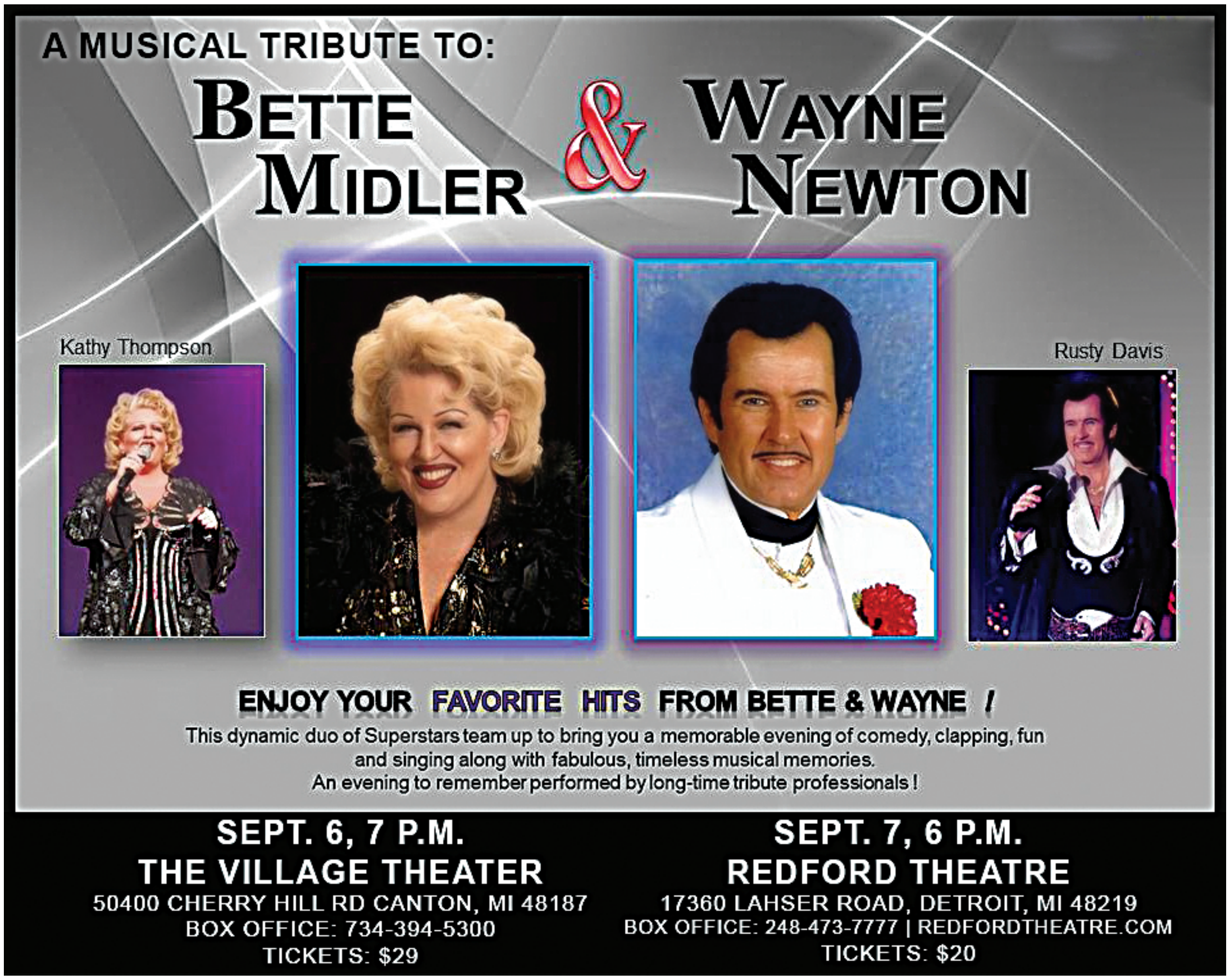
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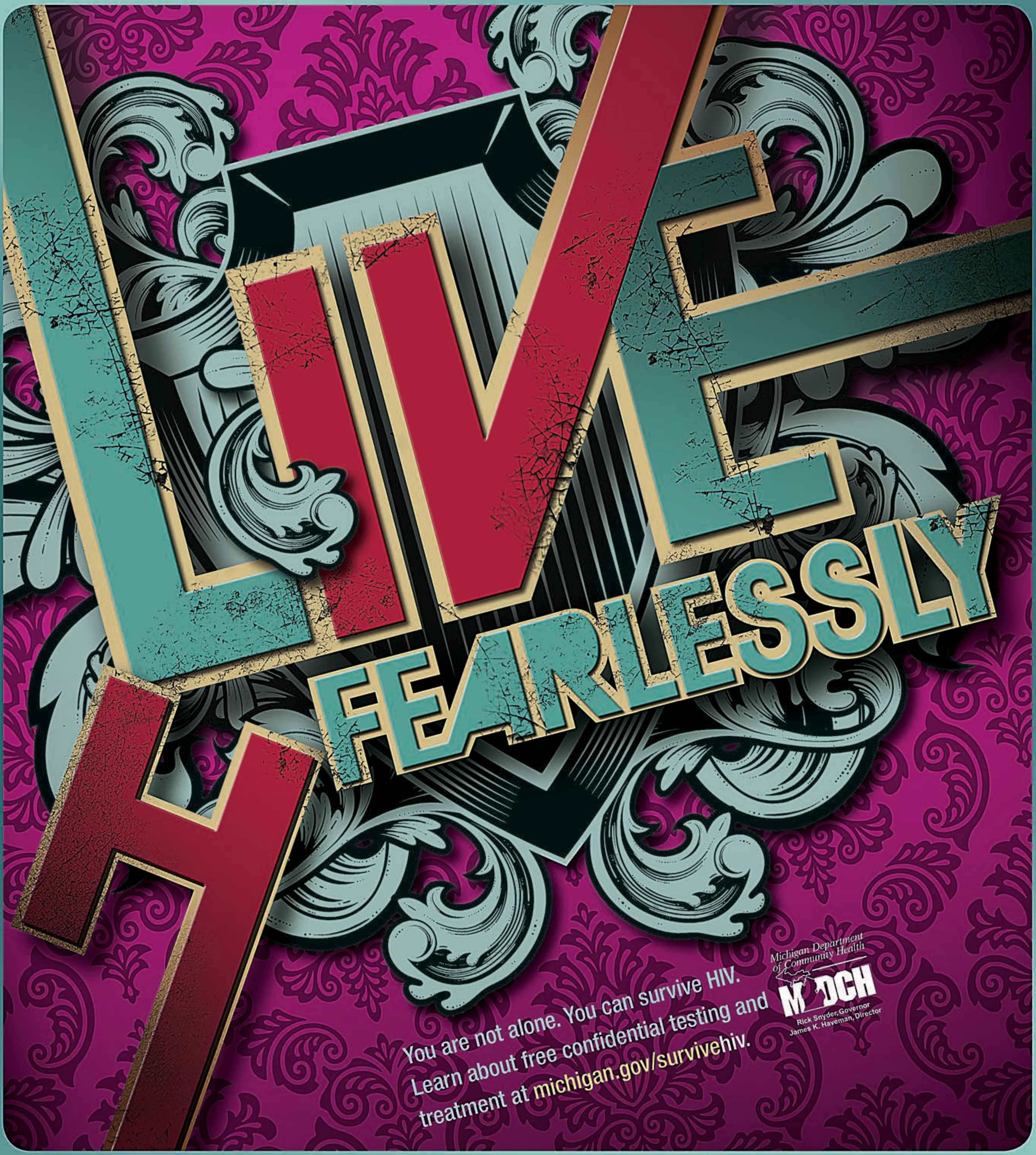

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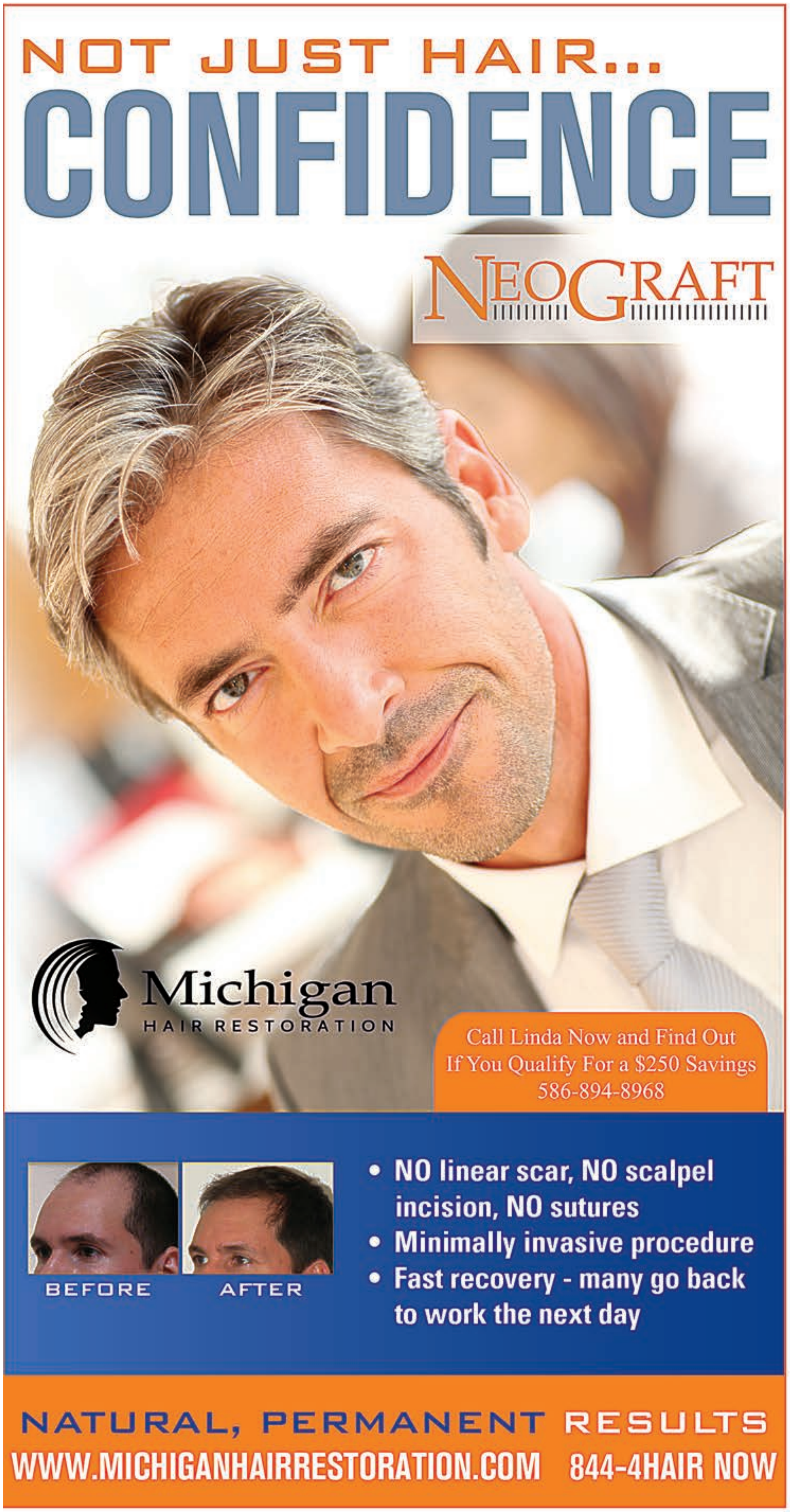

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